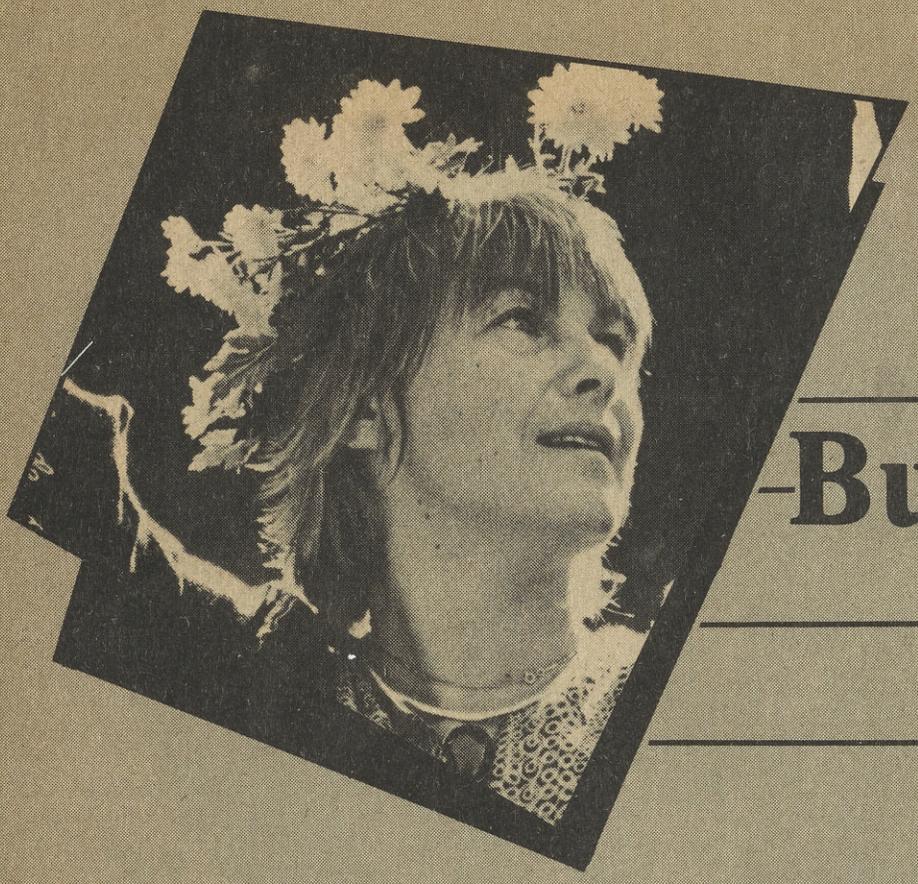
LESBIAN TIDE

Lavender Library, Archives
and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA
9076



Z Budapest's Early Years

- "Windows" Protested
- Alcoholism Overcome

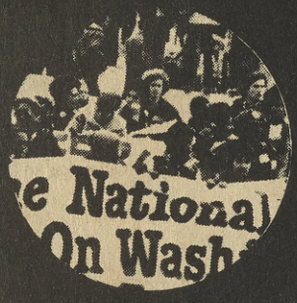
Kennedy Endorses Gay Rights

March/April 1980 $1.00

Concerned about the future?
Your own? The worlds? Gay rights?
Human rights? Freedom? Oppression?

The Universal Fellowship
of Metropolitan Community Churches
invites you to

"CELEBRATE!
THE



'S

ARE OURS!"

In 15 cities:
Los Angeles March 21, Dallas March 28,
Kansas City April 23, Washington, DC April 24,
London, England May 13, Copenhagen, Denmark May 20,
Houston, TX May 30, Atlanta, GA June 5, Chicago June 20,
Denver September 13, New York September 26, San Diego October 13,
Cincinnati October 16, Ft. Lauderdale November

Evening includes: Dinner; A multi-media
slide presentation of the ministry of MCC;
An address by Rev. Troy D. Perry,
Founder and Moderator of the UFMCC;
And a challenge to help change history.

For more information,
reservations and tickets write:
The 80s Are ours / UFMCC
5300 Santa Monica Blvd. No. 304
Los Angeles, Ca. 90029
or call 213-464-5100

THE LESBIAN TIDE

Tide Publications
1314 South Tremaine Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90019
(213) 939-1200

Publisher
Jeanne Cordova
Associate Publisher
Sharon McDonald

Editorial Board
Kerry Lobel, Sharon McDonald, Jeanne Cordova, Claire Krulikowski

Correspondents
Lynne Shapiro, New York
Jan Adams, San Francisco

Circulation..... **Lizette Burleson**
Advertising..... **Jeanne Cordova**
Office Manager/Bookkeeper... **Lizette Burleson**
Production..... **Barbara Gehrke**
Layout Artists..... **Kathryn Louyse, Sue Cooke, Carol Hector,** Evie Ruiz

Cover Design by Kathryn Louise
Cover photo Z Budapest, founder of Susan B. Anthony Coven #1.

***

The Lesbian Tide is a feminist news magazine published six times a year by TIDE PUBLICATIONS. The staff is open to women who wish to become involved in journalism or who see media as a vehicle for activism.

***

EDITORIAL POLICY

In the interest of fostering open communication, **The Lesbian Tide** prints a variety of views from the lesbian, feminist, and gay communities. Our editorial perspective also includes coverage of other social change issues as they relate to women and gays. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of Tide Publications nor The Editorial Board unless bylined as such.

***

SUBSCRIBERS: If you move you must notify us of your change of address as second class mail is not forwardable. Your expiration date now appears on your address label. Second Class Postage Paid at Los Angeles, CA.

READERS

Due to further hikes in printing, camera work, typesetting and paper we are seriously considering a cover price increase for next issue. If you planned to subscribe, do it now!

—Tide Publications

Vol. 9 No. 5 **March/April 1980**

PERSPECTIVES

4 **Part II, Happily Ever After?**
5 **Lesbian Lizards Out of the Tunnels**
6 **Z Budapest, Witch In Progress**
8 **If I Should Die Before I Wake**

NATIONAL NEWS

10 **Kennedy Would Back Gay Plank**
11 **Midge Costanza, "Why I'm For Kennedy"**
13 **Windows Ignites National Protest**
13 **Publishers Call for More Magazines**

LETTERS

15 **Holocaust Trivialized ● Better Luck Next Issue ● Controversy on Racism**

SHORTCURRENTS

20 **Kids of lesbians ● Swedish gay sick-out ● Lesbian reference in time capsule ● Census ●**

REVIEWS

23 **Windows ● May Sarton film ● Trilogy of goddess books**

L.A. NEWS & CALENDAR

27 ***Sister*, Sojourner Close ● Democratic lesbians ● Cranston at gay luncheon ● Pro-choice march**

The Tide Subscribe! Subscribe! Subscribe! Subscribe! Subscribe! Subscribe! Subscribe! Subscribe! The Tide

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State_____ ZIP_____

One year subscription (6 issues): $7.50 individuals, $9 overseas & Canada, $10 institutions. Mailed in plain brown wrapper.

1314 S. Tremaine Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90019

Part II

Happily Ever After?

By Jeanne Cordova

In Part I of this article (Nov./Dec. 1979), I wrote of how lesbian couples who live together can and should make property arrangements between themselves. We looked at the ten year relationship of Mary and Jane, how they broke up, and went to a lesbian lawyer to get a satisfactory property settlement. We reviewed their particular settlement contract and how it covered aspects of their joint life — house, cars, credit cards, current and future debts and assets. It was noted, settlements are civil contracts that will stand up in court.

In Part II, I want to talk about what can happen to the couple with no property contract, and the implications of the Marvin vs. Marvin (Michelle Triola and Lee Marvin) case for cohabitating lesbian couples. All examples used here are actual cases, names are fictitious.

* * *

Prior to the Marvin decision courts recognized oral or written agreements between unmarried people, but they had never recognized an implied contract where no marriage certificate existed. Michelle Triola argued, successfully, that her life and lifestyle with Marvin implied a sharing of property. For the first time a court looked at cohabitation and said, 'Based on how you conducted your lives, we will *imply* that a contract existed.' Although Triola didn't get as much as she argued for (half), she did get a settlement, and this had a feminist implication. The court's decision put men on notice that they couldn't necessarily avoid the financial obligations of marriage if they chose to accept the benefits of that state. The decision told women they had financial rights, in and out of marriage.

The court's dictum in the Marvin case uses sexually neuter words. Nowhere does it explicitly refer to heterosexuals, him, or her. It uses "co-habitation" in place of marriage. Many lesbian and gay lawyers, among them Bobbi Bennett of Los Angeles, believe, "There is no reason to believe the Marvin decision won't or can't be applied to gays." In fact, says Bennett, "a lot of gays are 'sue happy' now." There are several dozen such gay Marvin vs. Marvin suits now pending across the country.

Diane and Margie

One case now pending is that of Diane and Margie. The two decided to live together. Margie had the money so she put the down payment on a house, they opened a joint checking account out of which they paid their house payments and other expenses. Both put all their income in the joint account. Margie assumed, that the house was hers and that Diane was in effect just sharing rent like a roommate. But neither this assumption, nor any others, were voiced — until they broke up two years later. Diane is now suing, claiming half the house is hers. Margie's lawyer admits Diane has a good enough claim to take to court. She won't get half the house, but the court may decide she is entitled to receive back half of all her house payments since the joint payments did include taxes, insurance, etc.

Pat and Joyce

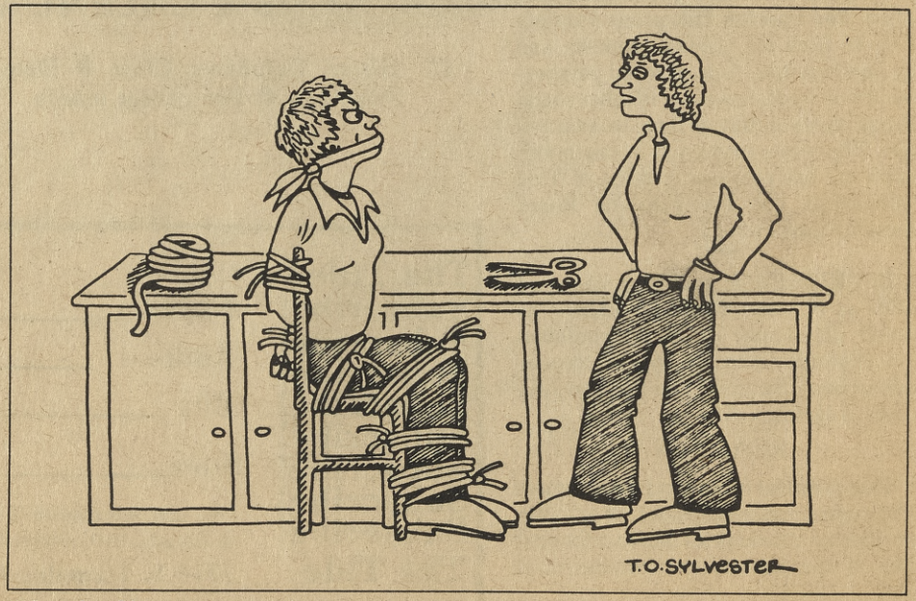
Take another familiar example. Pat wants to buy a house, but because she wants Joyce to have the house in case she dies, she takes ownership of it as "Joint Tenants" with Joyce. Many unmarried lovers, particularly gays, have done this in order to prevent family from automatically getting one's assets in case of death. Now Pat had the money in this relationship so she put down the money on the house and also supported most of their other joint expenses. Four years later Joyce and Pat decide they didn't want to live together anymore. They broke up. Pat placed a "Quit Claim" in front of her ex-lover and asks her to sign back "her" house to her. Joyce said, "No." In the eyes of the law the house is half Pat's, half Joyce's.

Barbara and Julie

A third classic case is that of Barbara and Julie, a couple of 17 years. They'd moved through the usual housing arrangements. Initially they lived in an apartment, then rented a house, then they decided to buy a home. For all the usual reasons, Barbara's credit was not good enough to get a mortgage loan. So Julie took out the loan in her own name, and they both put down 50% on "their" new house. Years passed and they used Julie's checking account, Barbara always paying cash, to pay their house payments and other bills. Then Barbara got involved with someone else, and said to Julie, "Ok, buy me out." "Buy you out of what?" Julie replied. Legally, the house was entirely Julie's. In attempting to prove that the house is half Barbara's, her lawyer is having to subpoena all of Julie's bank statements and will attempt to show that the unaccounted for income was Barbara's contribution. Barbara's lawyer says this "is one huge mess" — that will probably cost Barbara six thousand dollars in lawyer's fees.

Sharon and Christine

The last example, and perhaps the most unfair one, illustrates how the person with the assets is also open to being treated unfairly. Sharon and Christine were lovers with separate checking accounts. In the third year of their relationship, Sharon bought a house, into which she and Christine moved. A short while later they opened a joint checking account



"Now that I have your complete attention, Jo Anne, I'd like to give my side of the story."

for their house payments. One year later they broke up. Two years elapsed, Christine went her way, Sharon went another. Then one morning Sharon received a letter from Christine's lawyer notifying her she was being sued for ownership of half of her house. Christine who had kept all of her checks and bank statement copies, is alleging the house belonged to her also.

Nuisance and Blackmail

Many cases, such as this one, lawyers report are "nuisance cases." They will never get to court but each party has just enough legal clout to necessitate some legal reply from the other. This means no matter who is "right" or "wrong," both will have lawyer's fees. There is also, Bennett notes, the possibility of blackmail when one party knows the other party is in the closet at her work and will not risk going into open court. The line between "nuisance" and "blackmail" can be thin.

Although this reality is difficult, it is, at least in my opinion, also good. Recently in San Francisco a court awarded spousal *and* child support to a lesbian mother because she and her lover had specifically planned a child (by artificial insemination), and the non-biological mother/lover had "deserted" her. The court saw the non-biological mother's position as irresponsible. Ten years ago, this case might have been laughed, or derided, out of court.

It seems clear then that part of the burden of being validated by society is that we must also conduct our lives with more fiscal care and responsibility.

Having dealt with these disgusting possibilities that we are all positive will never happen to us — what can or should we do?

Lawyers say the first thing we must do is recognize these things will happen if the possibility that they might happen is ignored. ■

"I call your attention to Section 2, Article 14, Paragraph 6 of our cohabitation contract."

Lesbian Lizards Out of the Tunnels

Reprinted from Science magazine, Dec. 1979.

Courtship and mating behaviors may be more widespread than the mixing of genes by sexual reproduction. "We report for the first time evidence indicating that although unisexual *Cnemidophorus* lizards have dispensed with genetic sex, behavioral sex continues," says David Crews of Harvard University.

At least 27 species of reptiles are made up entirely or almost entirely of females reproducing parthenogenetically, so that each daughter is genetically identical to her mother. Scientists collected members of three such lizard species from Arizona and Colorado and found that pairs of females of these species (but not of closely related sexual species) behave in a manner resembling mating.

The "sexual" behavior of the parthenogenetic females includes courtship and copulatory phases. One animal lunges at another and bites her on the tail, then mounts the back and rides atop for a minute or two, while stroking the back and neck with her jaws and forelimbs and rubbing her cloaca (the female lizard's combined reproductive and excretory opening) against the back. The top lizard grasps the back of the neck or shoulder in her jaws and curves her tail beneath the other's tail to appose the cloacal regions. Finally she shifts her jaw grip further down the body to achieve the contorted mating posture characteristic of that genus of lizard. The females maintain the position 1 to 5 minutes, until the bottom animal breaks away.

Age and size do not determine the lizards' sexual role. Which female is top and which is bottom is a matter of the ovulatory cycle, Crews and Kevin T. Fitzgerald of the University of Colorado find. In each of 17 pseudo-matings, the more aggressive, courting animal contained only small, undeveloped follicles in her ovaries and was either post-ovulatory or reproductively inactive. The more passive member of the pair always had large, yolky preovulatory follicles, and laid her eggs about 30 days later. Crews and Fitzgerald have seen the same lizard play both sexual roles.

Roberta Gregory

The scientists do not yet know what makes the preovulatory female sexually attractive. Estrogen administered to females at other stages of their cycle does not make them attractive, although the allure may come from an estrogen-progesterone interaction. Crews suspects that chemicals emitted by the preovulatory female play a role, because the lizards have scent pores along their hind legs and inspect each other with much tongue-flicking activity.

The courting behavior seems to be more than a nonfunctional vestige of the lizard species' sexual ancestry. Crews says the behavior primes some hormonal mechanism that regulates the ovaries' activity. Animals caged alone do reproduce, but they lay eggs at longer intervals than do animals raised in groups.

So far the scientists have no idea of the ecological significance of the sexual behavior. The lizards live in large groups in burrows and are fast-moving. "In the wild, we never saw anything other than biting and chasing. We don't know what's going on in those tunnels," Crews says.

In current work, Crews and collaborators are treating the eggs of parthenogenetic lizards with hormones to try to create males. Crews says that they have already had some success in that the gonads of hatchlings of some treated eggs have a male-like duct system. "This could be the most dramatic research," Crews says. In essence they may be turning their lizards from parthenogenesis back to two-sex reproduction. ■

Interview

Z Budapest, Witch In Progress

By Sharon McDonald

Z Budapest

I am not well-versed in the ways of witchcraft; I'm more comfortable in a Ramada Inn than a Sabbat circle and I can't tell my Beltane from my belladonna. So why, when a small, gleeful woman exhorts the 1977 Halloween night crowd at the Los Angeles Woman's Building that, "The witches are rising!" did I get goosebumps? I was surprised, but electrifying women that did not previosly consider themselves witch material is just everyday magic to Zsuzsanna Budapest.

Although she is well known as an author of three feminist books, she is best remembered by anyone who has ever heard her speak. Passionate, witty, intense, and sometimes haphazard with her historical facts, Zee is always moving. In the last decade, she has inspired and encouraged spiritual growth within the feminist movement during times when spirituality and politics were generally viewed as opposing forces. She can incite her audiences to a feminist spirituality with dazzling enthusiasm, and she can explain goddess worship with the down to earth attitude of a woman explaining how to bake a potato.

Zee's life and work in the feminist community are a matter of public record, (see end of interview) from her books, to her speeches and sabbats, to her trial and conviction for fortunetelling, and more. What is not so public is the 30 years of learning and preparation that preceded her pioneering work in the women's spiritual movement. In this interview, Zee talks about her early revolutionary politics, her years in suburbia, and her eventual move to come out as a feminist, a lesbian, and a witch.

* * *

"When I first came to the United States, I was a political refugee. That was my beginning at age 16. There was a big revolution in my country in 1956 which was an astonishing experience.

On October 23rd, which was just a regular school day for me, I was in high school. I was let out early so I hit the street and saw some students leafletting. That was a miracle. Never had I seen leafletting in my life, especially in my country where even making a joke was against the law. I was always taught to watch out, because the walls have ears.

"I went into a class and started reading the different standpoints. The first one was that all Russian troops should leave Hungary. This was intoxicating for me.

"The Russians fed there like a parasite. The Hungarians had to stand in line for food, while the Russian soldiers had the best of everything.

"I got excited and everybody else got ignited so we decided that we would join a demonstration authorized that afternoon at 3:00. By the time we had all gathered, the authorization was withdrawn.

"At that point, we were close to ten thousand students and people who were off work early. We started marching. This incredible feeling of a revolution was permeating everyone. Old ladies stuck their heads out their windows holding the Hungarian flag.

"We sang the Hungarian national anthem and we all cried. By 6:00 we were at the parliament. I looked into the museum that was in front of it, and there were helmets in the grass, and my witch sense told me that these were soldiers. I thought, my god, they are coming to kill us. I was totally surrounded by a sea of people, so I started dropping back.

Not About to Die

"I was sixteen and not about to die. As I was dropping back, exactly what I thought would happen did. To a totally unarmed crowd of students and young workers, getting together, only wanting to be Hungarians in Hungary, they unleashed the secret service and they started shooting into the crowd. Thousands died, including four of my class mates.

"After that, the whole city was different. Imagine L.A. being fine one day and the next totally turned upside down, and street fighting. Our weapons were gasoline and Molotoff cocktails. The fighters were everybody from the children to the very old. There were more leaflets every day. There was a food shortage — we had to stand in line for bread and wine.

"On November 4th, they released more divisions from Russia coming up from the south of Romania to squash the Hungarian Revolution. At that time, the Hungarian President pleaded with the UN. There were two things going on in the U.S. at that time. One was a presidential election — you cannot have a revolution and hope for help from the U.S. when there is an election. Eisenhower was running for office. We thought, 'Great, he's a military man — maybe we will get off the Russians' hook.' Well, of course, nothing was further from the truth — the U.S. never cared about Hungary.

"For four glorious days, we did get rid of all of the Russians. But then, they started coming in again. They just mowed us down.

"I heard them coming. I heard the tanks on the cobblestone. It makes a frightful noise — iron against stone is a big sound.

"I knew than that I just couldn't live out my life in this country. I wanted to have my sweet sixteen and finish high school. I mean, I had modest plans. I didn't set out to conquer the world for the goddess. I was just kind of pushed by

history. So that was my beginning. And I never got off the revolutionary track.

Moving On

"I decided that if I don't go now they are going to close down the border. 65,000 students left. It was like an exodus. The young just walked out. I walked on the Viennese road which leads from Budapest to Vienna. I felt very romantic. I stopped in nice places and bought myself wine and salami, and I ate in haystacks. I met some peasants who were collecting hay, and they put me on their truck and took me to where they collected all the refugees. With the other girls, I was taken to Innsbrook, a high school that was both in German and Hungarian. So I was back in school in two weeks. They also found me a family there that was interested in adopting another child. They loved me, and gave me money after I left in two years to go to college. They have remained friends of my parents. That was a real stroke of the goddess' luck.

Budapest outside the Venice storefront housing The Feminist Wicca which she founded in 1974.

"From there, I went to Vienna to study to be an interpretor. After that, everything pointed to me that the U.S. is where I should be. I applied for a visa and a scholarship, and, of course, I needed a sponsor. So I got married — he was a childhood sweetheart whom I grew up with from Budapest. I was very big on making Hungarian children. I didn't realize what happened to me. I was 21, and the mother of two.

"Suddenly, I had a totally different career. I got depressed and wanted to run away. I realized I married my husband out of security reasons. I never really liked men sexually. I hoped that I would get security and emotional support — the sex part was always a sacrifice — not something that really lured me. So much so that when I got married, I was a virgin for six weeks. I was impenetrable.

"He took me to the doctor so he could find out if there was something wrong with me. I was just a dyke who didn't want to do it.

"I went to the University of Chicago, and studied in Chicago for a while. I was taking German lit, and was the only one who spoke fluent German. They changed the rules on me, and said I'd have to do all my work in English. I couldn't do it, so my grades dropped off and I lost my scholarship. I decided to give it up and sit home and watch *I Love Lucy.* I learned English from TV; I totally absorbed it.

"We moved from Chicago to NY. That is where I set out to extricate myself from my marriage. I started to educate my two sons for about three years. So the time came, I didn't know where I was going or what I would do, but it was clear to me that I would either die playing out my destiny or that I would go and really look for it. And do you know what helped me leave that split-level middle class environment? It was that I had once walked out on a whole country. I just wanted to be free.

Finding it

Just before I finally left, I was so depressed I did try to kill myself. My grand dream was to ride my bicycle very fast off a cliff into the Atlantic Ocean, and hit the rocks. Well, what happened was that I rammed my bike into a small mound of dust, which threw me off my bike and knocked me unconscious. And I had a vision.

"I was suddenly in this pulsating pink garden from the total despair that I felt before. Now it was just the opposite, into happiness, this total vibrating pink, transparent pink, a beautiful garden. I loved this place, so I asked a question, "Where am I?" And then I saw black shadows start to come in and everything went black, and I opened my eyes. The whole thing must have only taken three or four minutes and I was a changed person. I really felt that I had died and that was over with.

"Then I hitchhiked to L.A., and when I got here, I felt whole.

"This was in the seventies. I picked up the *Free Press,* and in it there was information about a demonstration for women. I started reading. I showed up at this demonstration and the people there were to be my family. They looked like me, accepted me. I helped them carry their signs, I helped clean up the women's center, later on. I never left. It was a clear cut move.

"We built the first women's center, we did the first demonstrations, they taught me a lot of skills. Whenever there was a need for someone to talk fast and hold an audience on TV they had me do it. I was sort of this Hungarian storyteller, and it never scared me. Guns pointed at me took my breath away, but cameras pointed at me never scared me.

"Step by step we evolved. I did a whole year's work with the movement without ever talking much about the goddess. I was running the speaker's bureau, I was the editor of *Sister* magazine, we started the clinic, the women's liberation school, and the anti-rape squad which eventually became the Rape Hotline. All of this was in embryo form and we were pushing it from all sides simultaneously.

"I came out in 1970, a little bit at a time. My first experience, I think, was sort of a mercy act. She showed up at my door one day on a full moon with a bottle of gin. She pointed at the moon and said, 'Is it that time?' I said 'Yep, that's the right time.'

"And then Janet showed up. What really turned me around was falling in love with Janet, whom I still live with. The pleasures were fine, but nobody really got into my heart, nobody really got that deep, and when I fell in love with Jan it felt very natural. And Jan didn't have much experience and this time the shoe was on the other foot. I had to bring her out, which I did on my birthday as a present to myself. I was thirty one."

* * *

The rest, as they say, is herstory: In 1971 Zee came out as a witch in the Los Angeles women's community, and on December 21 of that year she conducted the first sabbat. Six women came to the first, 13 to the second, 20 to the third, and then 40. In 1974, with $500, Zee opened the Feminist Wicca. Arrested in 1975 on a charge of fortune telling for reading an undercover officer's tarot cards, she was convicted after a four day trial at which local women demonstrated in her support. She appealed the conviction, but it was upheld in court three years later. Zee is the author of ***The Feminist Book of Lights and Shadows,*** *a children's book called* ***Selene, the Most Famous Bull-leaper on Earth,*** *and most recently* ***The Holy Book of Women's Mysteries, Part One.*** *She is currently working on a contemporary historical novel about "the last ten years of coven life in Los Angeles" called* ***Like Minded Women.*** ■

If I Should Die Before I Wake

By Lisa De Soto

My fondest memories of junior high school in 1967 are of times spent with my best friend. Until recently I never associated my feelings for her as being sexual. As my girlfriend and I grew closer we began to drink together. In time she tired of the routine and I arrived at her house stoned, and drank alone. At age 16 I lost her to my boyfriend. I continued to drink — alone.

I doused my lesbian feelings at every turn. I could no longer be alone with my thoughts. Without ever slitting my wrist as I had often fantasized, I began cutting away at my being with each drink.

Through the next 12 years the haze between my reality and the rest of the world thickened. I hit bottom three times before I gave up alcohol forever. The first was four years later in 1971, when I was in college in Santa Cruz. I believe I was drinking often, but I don't really know. I just remember running out of orange juice for my vodka. I mixed raspberry soda with the vodka. I woke up the next morning feeling lifeless. The half empty bottle of vodka found its way to the trash. To this day I've never had another drink of raspberry soda, but I can't say the same for vodka.

For the next few years I lived a nearly empty existence. I spent much time in my garden watching the pelicans swooping down into the ocean beyond the eucalyptus trees. My lover Nancy was the only person I let near me.

By the time we moved to Southern California in 1975, I didn't know how to make the adjustment from my solitary confinement to life. I was starved for affection and the company of other lesbians and looked to others for guidance. I found a role model in a working class lesbian feminist organization. This woman had just left the convent. I could identify with her experiences and she liked me. Her road to coming out was paved with alcohol. Once again my mistaken belief that alcohol could ease a rough time was confirmed.

I headed for the booze at parties and went to bars on the weekends. I concealed the volume I was drinking from Nancy. I remember driving us home one night. I struggled, opening my eyes wider to see, so she wouldn't know how drunk I was. By this point I had no self esteem. I did my best to hide from anyone who might begin to know me as the lesbian alcoholic that I am. Through it all, I somehow graduated from college in 1976 and moved on to the pressures of working.

I did enjoy one aspect of working. Lunch hours gave me the opportunity to explore the various restaurants in town. I discovered a great restaurant that served delicious tostados. That was a perfect excuse to go there often for peach margaritas. These rich, wonderful margaritas were like ice cream. I convinced myself that they were harmless, always having at least two. In time my senses were not deadened by these. I drove to the liquor store frequently for something stronger.

The next thing I remember is crawling on the bedroom floor, crying. Nancy's voice faded in and out. I needed to quit my job. I needed rest. I gave notice the next morning and we took a trip to the South. I came back home with the idea that what I needed was a therapist.

I thought therapy was going well for me. I was able to keep the facade of being together during my sessions, and my therapist never discovered my alcoholism.

I became active in politics which had before been a good escape for me. As pressure mounted with California's anti-gay teachers campaign in 1978, I began drinking daily. My life felt less certain. I changed therapists and moved away from Nancy. I had never lived alone. I desperately needed space to think. I knew something was wrong with my life but the changes I was making did not help. I felt isolated.

I began working again doing accounting and drinking nearly every night. My facade fell and my dignity disappeared with the holidays. I drank more at the work Christmas party than I ever had. While everyone else was sipping on champagne, I spiked mine with vodka. I floated away from the nauseatingly blatant heterosexuality that filled the air. I was too drunk to drive. I was embarrassed and humiliated and most of all sick.

Nancy came over that night and I could feel her eyes piercing my secret. She had never before believed I was an alcoholic. But without her to care for me my disease was now evident.

I quit drinking for a month. It was a painful process. I expected an instant rebound. It did not come. Two weeks later I found myself very ill. I had nothing to live for sober. I began drinking again.

Nancy went to the Gay Community Services Center Alcohol Abuse Program for counseling. She went to Al-Anon and seemed to recite from their brochures when I talked to her. She once told me I was a drunk and needed help. I immediately called another practicing alcoholic and told her that my lover had stooped to calling me names!

After only two weeks of drinking something terrifying began happening to me. I was unable to function after two drinks. I found myself no longer wondering if I could meet deadlines on projects but whether or not I could walk unassisted to the bathroom at the bar. I sat on the bathroom floor as my world blacked out. I have no idea how much time I actually spent there graphing my future.

Thursday, March 1, 1979, I took my last drink. I'm not certain what happened to make me stop. It might be because a friend was fired that evening. The stated cause for termination was incompetence. His superior whispered an accusation of alcoholism. My rounds to four bars that night rather than the usual one or two did nothing to cure the misery I felt.

Somewhere inside I had always had a glimpse of what my sober life could be. I wanted the disgust I felt for myself to disappear. I wanted the lies to stop. I wanted to feel alive, to be proud of myself again. I wanted the bitterness and hatred I felt to ease. . .to see my softness again. It was time to awaken from the slow death I felt upon me.

I made it my first 30 days sober, alone. At the suggestion of nearly everyone in my life I finally took the painful step of calling the Alcoholism Center for Women in Los Angeles. I knew I needed support but the idea of talking with a group of unfamiliar women was a terrifying thought. I cried the entire 50 mile commute to my first group there.

Anxiously I walked inside. Sitting on the stairs was a beautiful sober woman. Her warm clear eyes sent warmth to my frozen lungs and I began to breathe again. The group was filled with women so different from each other, yet all of us had so much in common. Some had been jailed due to their drinking. Others drank only at home. One woman wasn't sure she was an alcoholic. All of us were certain of one fact. Alcohol had been interfering in our lives.

My drive home was a little easier. I stopped at a pay phone and asked Nancy to meet me at my apartment. My burden had been lightened by the knowledge that it was no longer mine alone.

During the next several months I began to dig for the feelings I had tried so hard to bury. Self inflicted pressure to be perfect plus the oppression I felt as a lesbian, a chicana, a woman, had thrown me into the sometimes wonderful fog of the world of alcohol. Drinking was a dream-like release from the uneasiness I felt disclosing fragments of myself to other lesbians.

At ACW I learned to let other women into my world. Transition group eased the changes occurring in my life as I phased out of the bar scene. I learned new ways to relate to my body in relaxation and bio-feedback groups. I finally accepted that it would take my body three to five years to recuperate from all the damage I had inflicted upon it. My therapist shared her alcoholism research with me. She said that one third of the lesbian/gay community is alcoholic.

As I became more confident in my sobriety I found other support groups. I subscribed to the Women for Sobriety newsletter and learned that women everywhere share many of my feelings. I explored Alcoholics Together (an Alcoholics Anonymous group for lesbians and gays). It was good to be able to leave this area and know there was support anytime and anywhere I went.

I've settled now on a small, informal group of women as my basic support system. A group called Alternative to AA is where I feel most comfortable to be myself. Sharing all of who I am, including being a lesbian, is essential to my sobriety.

I am fortunate that I am sober today, after many years of struggling, to share my experience with you. Many of my sisters are not. Some have died, others are still feeling the slow decay I once knew. ■

The Women for Sobriety Newsletter is available from Women for Sobriety, Inc., P.O. Box 618, Quakertown, PA 18951.

662-3055
GENE'S TV
Quality Service
Carry In & Save!
LATEST MODELS · LARGEST SELECTION
TV—STEREO
VIDEO RECORDER
DISCOUNT PRICES
5209 Sunset Blvd.
We accept BankAmericard/VISA and Mastercharge
Open 10am to 7pm
GAY OWNED AND OPERATED

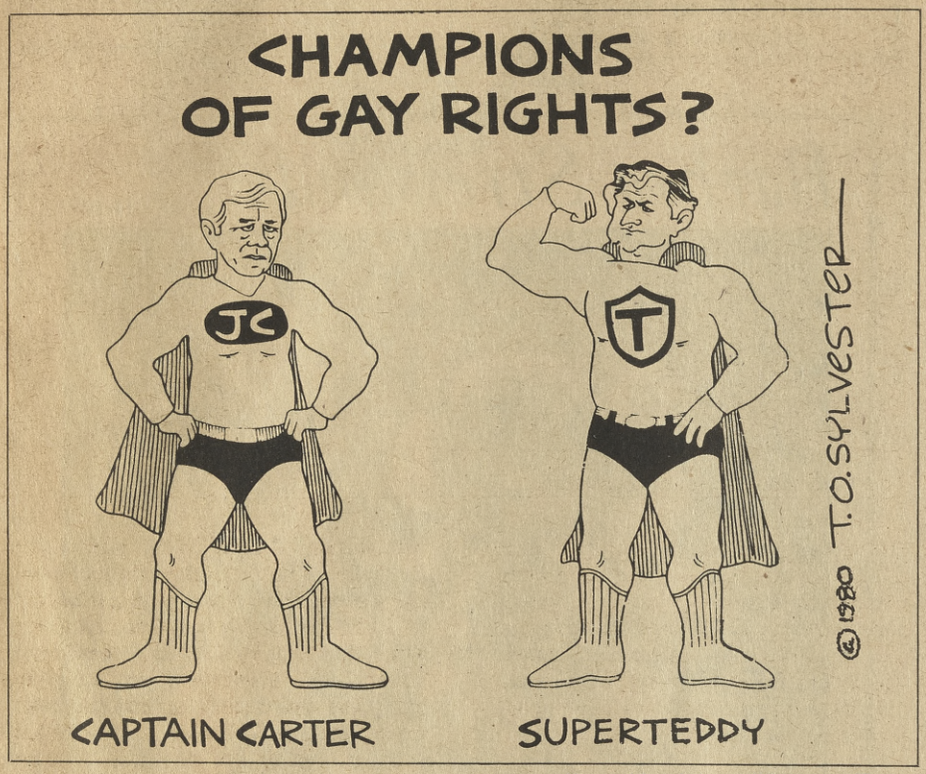
SCPHR
Southern California
Physicians for Human Rights
Speakers Bureau
&
Referrals for Gay and Lesbian Health Care
(213) 858-6767
7985 Santa Monica Blvd. Suite 109 Los Angeles, CA 90046

Barbra Streisand
18X24 BW

A beautiful graphic art print from an original work of art
DIANA PRINTS
1634 Chino St.
Santa Barbara CA 93101
MAIL CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR $9.50
(Ca. residents add 6% sales tax $9.95)

Gay Watch '80

Kennedy Would Back Gay Plank



When the representatives of all three Democratic contenders for the Presidency meet with the Gay Coalition of Iowa, it's obvious that "gay power" has become more than a demonstration slogan.

This event occurred Jan. 10 as Carter, Kennedy, and Brown staffers all tried to convince gay Iowans "how much" their candidates had done for our cause.

Challenged by groups through letters and appearances across the country, Senator Edward Kennedy is fast embellishing his heretofore blank record on gay rights. In response to a questionnaire sent to all presidential candidates by The National Gay Task Force, Kennedy said that if elected he will issue an executive order banning discrimination against gays in federal employ. Further, he said he supports gay rights legislation, and he promised to endorse a gay rights plank at the August Democratic National Convention.

In his sweeping statement Kennedy wrote, "I believe our party's platform should also commit itself to the issuance of an executive order prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in government programs and the enactment of legislation protecting the civil rights of those who have historically been stigmatized on the basis of sexual orientation."

In response to a question put to him in a Jan. 20 *Washington Post* interview Kennedy reiterated, "I think that in the area of gay rights that there has to be elimination of all discrimination. . .I think any legislation that exists on the books should be struck down." In the interview Kennedy, who is the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a member of the Select Commission on Immigration & Refugee Policy, said he was working in both capacities to better civil rights for gays. The Judiciary Committee's proposed new criminal code would abolish all existing sodomy laws between consenting adults. In the interview however, Kennedy did not specifically say he would co-sponsor Senator Cranston's recent bill calling for a repeal of Immigration policy against gays.

When asked about his position on gay rights in several smaller cities in recent months Kennedy has referred to his anti-Prop 6 (Briggs Initiative) stance, and reiterated his remarks in the *Post* interview.

Although NGTF and other gay and lesbian leaders caution about separating Kennedy's rhetoric from his practice, the Senator is picking up gay support. In a heated debate, and by a one vote margin, D.C.'s gay Democratic club, the Gertrude Stein Club, endorsed him. Boston activists have recently organized "Lesbians & Gay Men For Kennedy." Several gay Brown supporters have implied they will back Kennedy when and if their candidate is forced to drop out.

"I think that in the area of gay rights there has to be elimination of all discrimination . .I think any legislation that exists on the books should be struck down."

— Ted Kennedy, *The Washington Post*. Jan. 20, 1980

Kennedy Women's Group

In an attempt to improve his image with women, Kennedy also announced the formation of a Women's Advisory Committee composed of sixty "prominent Massachusetts women." The group's Chair, Nancy Korman, is a former Vice President of Americans for Democratic Action and a partner in an all woman owned and operated public relations firm. Korman expects her Committee will "take a strong role" in eastern campaigns planned by the Senator.

Carter Announcement Expected

Not to be outdone as a champion of gay rights, a campaign supporter of Carter's said the President will make an announcement about his position on the Senate gay rights bill soon. Speaking Feb. 3 to a forum on lesbian and gay rights at the University of New Hampshire, Stanley Tobin also said Carter will at that time take a stand on whether he will sign an executive order banning discrimination against gays in the federal government. Tobin, who is a Los Angeles lawyer, works for the Carter-Mondale campaign and was representing Carter at this meeting. Tobin said Carter had been given background papers and

***continued on page* 12**

The National Convention Project reports that "about a dozen" members of local gay organizations were elected as Democratic and Republican county convention delegates during the Iowa primaries. Only four Iowa precincts rejected a gay rights plank. Working from store front headquarters in Des Moines, the Project and the Gay Coalition of Iowa contacted organizations in ten cities. These organizations conducted workshops on caucus tactics. The state's major media all covered gay political activity.

Constanza Explains, "Why I'm for Kennedy"

Midge Costanza stumps for Kennedy.

By Jeanne Cordova

While Jerry Brown has corralled gay support, Ted Kennedy is picking up endorsements and campaign staffers from the women's movement. One activist on his behalf is Midge Constanza, a well known feminist who first helped open White House doors to gays in a 1977 meeting between Carter Administration aides and the National Gay Task Force. Costanza was herself a Carter aide at that time but resigned in 1978 because she felt "the President wasn't emphasizing issues as strongly as he did when he campaigned."

In a February interview Costanza said she backs Kennedy now because she agrees with his positions and appreciates his courage. "It takes courage to support an issue you might not personally believe in," she noted referring to the Senator's consistent support of pro-choice legislation. "He is Roman Catholic and from a state that is 95% Catholic, but he has continually supported the use of Medicaid funds for abortions."

As a member of his Speakers' Bureau, she is not a paid campaigner, but she has traveled to Iowa, Oklahoma, Boston, and California speaking to women, senior citizens, Hispanics, Puerto Ricans, gays, and human rights groups about her candidate.

According to a study published by *The Woman Activist,* Kennedy "has never voted against the woman's position." Costanza notes the Senator was the first to introduce legislation calling for an end to sex discrimination in the armed forces. He opposed and fought budget cuts in CETA training and housing assistance. He early authored legislation to: extend maternal and infancy care, aid pregnant teenagers, and support rape crisis centers with federal funds. Costanza summarized, "He has the best record on human rights, civil rights, and women."

Strategy Shifts

Asked how she evaluates Kennedy's chances now that Afghan fever has dramatically increased Carter's popularity, Costanza analyzed:

"The condition that led (Kennedy) to enter the race was Carter's weakness in the polls. They showed him losing to everyone! Women, labor and minorities were afraid of a right wing candidacy. Since Iran and Afghanistan Kennedy has made some bad judgements in TV appearances that caused a diminishing in his polls.

"This hysteria of patrioticism that we're now seeing comes from a basic fear and frustration. Jimmy Carter is enjoying indirect and non-specific support. People are rallying around the *office* of the Presidency, not around Jimmy Carter."

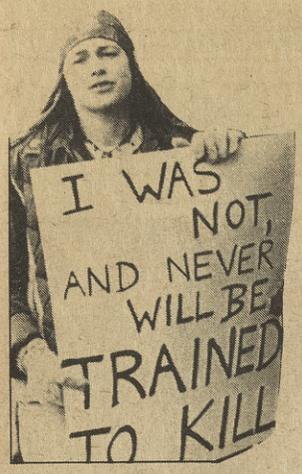
She also believes Kennedy has made some important changes recently as a result of his dismal Iowa showing. "He's a different candidate than two months ago. He's got a clearer picture of *who* he is and *what* he is. Who he is is a Senator of the United States and he doesn't have to apologize for having differing opinions with Jimmy Carter. What he is is a champion of human rights. He's a liberal and a progressive. He always has been."

She believes this new focus has freed Kennedy to speak out more clearly and "offer specific alternatives" to Carter. He has come out clearly against the draft saying the young should not be called upon to rectify the mistakes of their elders. He has said budget increases should go to providing jobs, not to defense; that putting people to work decreases the cost of government (assistance to welfare, unemployment benefits) and strengthens the Social Security System and the economic welfare of the country.

Brown Deserving

Costanza agrees Brown is drawing votes from Kennedy but she also says the California Governor is entitled to the loyalty he enjoys from gays and the anti-nuclear movement. "Jerry Brown absolutely deserves the support he is getting. He is courageous, he has gone extra steps."

As a veteran politician she also feels that eventually either Kennedy or Brown must bow out gracefully in deference to unifying the liberal vote. "That loyalty is his," she said referring to Brown, "but I would find it selfish if he did not release it. . .Only he and those who support him can make that decision, but there must come a time when this support gets transferred to Ted Kennedy *or* Jerry Brown. One must give it to the other." ■



KENNEDY WOULD BACK GAY PLANK

continued from page **10**

will make a formal statement "fairly soon, perhaps within the next two weeks." Tobin did not know what the President will decide but he said Carter's statement would be "reflective of the President's belief that anti-gay discrimination is unconstitutional under the 1st, 4th, and 14th Amendments. . .". Asked if Carter, like Brown and Kennedy, would support adoption of a gay plank at the Democratic Convention, Tobin said he foresees "Something in the nature of a compromise. . .but I am sure it will be one you can and will be proud to support."

PROPOSED GAY PLATFORM PLANK

We affirm the right of all lesbians and gay Americans to full participation in the social, political and economic life of the country, without fear of prejudice or reprisals based on sexual orientation.

To support this commitment and give life to this principle, we call for an executive order, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in all government employment and government programs, and further, we support the enactment of legislation to protect the civil rights of gay people and the repeal of all laws which are used to stigmatize persons on the basis of sexual orientation.

(proposal as drafted by The National Convention Project)

There have been two Presidential elections since the birth of the Gay Rights Movement in 1969. And in both those years, 1972 and 1976, lesbians and gays have pressured the Democratic and Republican Conventions to adopt a gay plank. Efforts with Democrats were successful in 1976 to the extent that the gay issue was debated in Committee, and four open gays (Jo Daly and Jim Foster of San Francisco, Jean O'Leary of New York, and Clayton Wells of Los Angeles) were elected delegates to the Democratic Convention.

Adoption of a gay plank such as the one proposed by The National Convention Project (see this page) by either party would mean official recognition of gay rights as a priority by that Party. And with this important goal in mind lesbians and gays across the country are gearing up for Round 3: pushing the gay plank at the August Democratic National Convention in New York City.

The fact that both Jerry Brown and Ted Kennedy have publically said they would endorse their Party's adoption of such a plank greatly improves chances that this issue might actually be debated by the people who will choose the Democratic nominee for President. What President Carter says about the gay issue in the next six months will greatly increase or decrease the possibility of a debate on this issue in August. Electing lesbian or gay delegates to the convention, a lengthy and difficult process which has already begun in many cities, will also help. It is hoped we can increase the number of such delegates to as many as a dozen this year.

Lesbians and gays are therefore urged to participate in the elections of their own local delegates and try to enlighten and garner the support of these people. Delegate elections will take place in the next three months in every town and city in the country. (In California on May 4.) It is crucial that lesbians be registered voters and that they be at these election caucuses. To find out the date of your local election call your Assembly person's office. Then gather some friends, find out who from your area is running, call them, lobby them, and vote for them if they are responsive to you.

(Note: In San Francisco contact Gwen Craig of The Harvey Milk Memorial Democratic Club, Frank Fitch of the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, and/or Kory White.

A Los Angeles delegate drive is underway, see Calendar News this issue.) ■

For the most part, however, Carter himself has taken refuge behind a preoccupation with Iran and Afghanistan and hasn't come out on the gay issue, nor many others.

Assailed by feminists for only giving the ERA "lip service", and by the National Organization for Women, who refused to endorse him (see last issue), Carter did throw a passing reference to women's rights into his January State of the Union address. And he has, of course, said he believes women should be registered for the draft. Whether *this* is a pro or anti-feminist position, or just grandstanding, is a question now being debated by feminists.

In attempt to woo the traditional sectors of the Women's Movement, Carter invited leaders of such to a December White House meeting. He pointedly dropped NOW from the guest list after hearing of their non-endorsement. NOW pointedly picketed the White House, and continues to charge that even though Carter has appointed women to top positions, "issues, not jobs are what counts." Carter supports prohibiting the use of Medicaid funds for abortions.

Asked about openly gay candidates on their campaign staffs, Steve Ribers, Deputy Director of Brown's effort in New Hampshire, named David Mixner and Peter Scott, two Los Angeles gay men, as "key campaign consultants." Tobin, speaking for Carter's staff, said he thought there were some gays, but he didn't know their names. Audience members retorted, "We know there are; the question is are they open."

Brown's Future In Question

The candidacy of Calif. Gov. Jerry Brown has been noteworthy since its inception on the gay issue. However, consultant David Mixner says the Governor will have to do well in New Hampshire (Feb. 26) in order to remain in the race. By well, Mixner means "at least as well as he did in Maine." Brown got 14% of the vote there.

Noting that the Brown campaign has become "thoroughly integrated" with the lesbian and gay communities, Mixner said he found both groups were "solidly" behind Brown in the Northeast. Los Angeles attorney Sheldon Adelson, just back from a Brown campaign stump in Maine and New Hampshire confirmed the gay support, but also noted many lesbians and gays now see Kennedy as a 2nd choice should Brown bow out. Andelson reported he saw little lesbian or gay support for Carter who has had four years to do something for gays — and hasn't.

Northeastern lesbians and gays are faced with the difficult choice of whether to back a deserving pro-gay candidate (the first in American politics) who might not make it all the way, or voting for a second-best viable candidate (Kennedy) whose campaign is also in trouble.

At press time no Republican candidate had said anything worth quoting on the subject of gay or women's rights. ■

Windows Ignites Protest

By Lynne D. Shapiro

New York: In the past sixty years Hollywood has produced only four movies that feature lesbians *(The Children's Hour, The Killing of Sister George, The Fox,* and *A Different Story)* — each worse than the other in depicting lesbianism as sick and tragic.

Now United Artists, who also produced the slanderous anti-gay male film *Cruising,* last year, has produced the most vicious anti-lesbian film imaginable — *Windows.*

As a film *Windows* is so bad *(Newsweek* panned it as "the worst film of 1980") that it might have opened and closed across the country with no-one having seen it, had not Jan Oxenburg of the National Association of Lesbian & Gay Filmmakers previewed it.

On January 19, four days after this preview, NALGF and The National Gay Task Force mobilized an opening night protest against *Windows* which drew over 200 representatives from every feminist, lesbian and gay group in the metropolitan area.

The purpose of the demonstration, to call media attention to the film's anti-lesbian and anti-woman messages, and to cut box-office sales, were somewhat successful. The demonstration was covered by several television stations. And conversations with theater goers persuaded a good number of older adults to change their minds (at least three joined the protest line).

The picketers, however, were less successful with the young people in line who only gawked at the "dykes and fags", and seemed oblivious to any consciousness raising attempt. This was unfortunate because movie theaters receive most of their income from this age group. United Artists was able to continue the run of *Windows* all over the Metropolitan area for several weeks.

United Artists has shown no concern about the negative images they were hyping or the effect of such. It can be conjectured that they did expect some protest since the film was made under tight security which prevented the pre-release protests that occurred during the shooting of their anti-gay film *Cruising.*

Los Angeles: In February lesbians here also marched outside of Hollywood and Westwood theaters showing *Windows.* The owner of Hollywood's Pacific theater told the *L.A. Times* that the demonstrators had increased his box office receipts by calling attention to an otherwise mediocre film. However activists felt that talking with and giving literature to theater goers was an important consciousness raising necessity.

Cruising, the UA film which New York gays attempted to stop during its shooting in Greenwich Village over Christmas, also opened in February. Its Feb. 15 opening was greeted by nationwide demonstrations. Los Angeles gays organized as "The Committee Concerned About the movie *Cruising",* plan further protests. For more information or participation call Morris Kight at (213) 463-3928. ■

Jan. 18 New York City lesbians and gays demonstrate in front of Baronet Theater protesting the opening of the anti-lesbian film Windows.

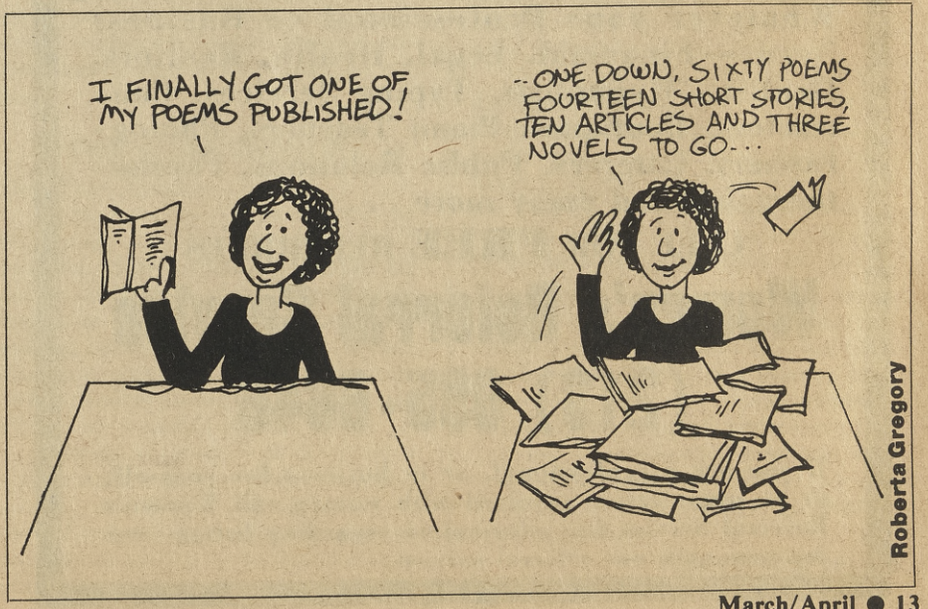
Publishers Call for More Magazines

By Sharon McDonald

"When *Amazon Quarterly* died, we kept waiting for someone from California or Massachusetts to start another magazine, but nobody did. We were just two lesbians living in Charlotte, North Carolina, unconnected to any network of lesbians anywhere, but we sent out a flier to everyone in the *New Woman's Survival Catalog* asking if there was any interest in a new magazine. We wanted to have a publication that dealt with a new language, new perceptions, seeing the world through new eyes. Lots of women wrote back and sent stories; we printed everything we got in the first issue of *Sinister Wisdom* in July of 1976."

In the four years since then, publishers Harriet Desmoines and Catherine Nicholson have made *Sinister Wisdom* a forum for some of the best analysis, poetry and

continued on page


I FINALLY GOT ONE OF MY POEMS PUBLISHED!
..ONE DOWN, SIXTY POEMS FOURTEEN SHORT STORIES, TEN ARTICLES AND THREE NOVELS TO GO...
Roberta Gregory

BETH CHAYIM CHADASHIM
Serving the Jewish and Gay Communities
Invites You to Share Friday Night Services
8:30pm

At: 6000 West Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, Ca 90035
Telephone: (213) 931-5308
*Member — Union of American Hebrew Congregations

THE ONLY EXERCISE YOU'LL EVER NEED

a balanced combination of stretching, rhythmic movements and breathing

Tuesdays and Thursdays
6:30 and 7:30 classes

Debbie Miller — 477-0102

W

Whatever your Professional or Business Needs—Financial, Legal, Health, Realtors, Dentists, Hypnotists, Typing Services, Contractors, Boutiques, Piano Teachers, Photographers, Caterers, Public Relations, Psychotherapists and many more . . .

CALL FOR FREE REFERRALS

Women's Referral Service
(213) 995-6646

If you are a professional, or in business for yourself, or an organization involved with women call Women's Referral Service for information regarding listing your business with our referral service.

Publishers *continued from page* 13

fiction currently being produced by lesbian feminists. Speaking in Santa Monica, California in February, they urged their audience to consider starting new publications for lesbian writers.

"Having created *Sinister Wisdom,* just having it *available,* has encouraged more women to write. It's hard to keep writing when you know there are no outlets for your work. So the very existence of *Sinister Wisdom* has created more lesbian writing. Now we have to turn down so much good material because we just don't have the space to print it all.

"We can't afford financially to expand and add pages; we're on a very tight margin. *Conditions* operates on a marginal budget also, so there are still too few places publishing this type of writing. There is such a need for more outlets: We want to encourage more women to start more magazines."

Desmoines described the changes in submissions over the years: "When we first began, we were inundated with poetry, but we wanted a balance between that and other kinds of writing. We even had a moratorium on poetry submissions for a while, which was NOT very popular with the poets! At first we got very little fiction, now we get a great deal of it."

Asked to renumerate the criteria used to choose material for publication in *Sinister Wisdom,* Nicholson said, "We lock for writing that reflects a lesbian feminist culture or perspective. And then among those pieces, we choose the ones which express it most clearly."

The co-publishers also revealed the inspiration for the title *Sinister Wisdom.* Desmoines explained, "The word 'sinister' originally meant 'from the left side,' which was devalued in the patriarchy, and associated with blackness, darkness, evil, women, and homosexuality: all those things we know and love!" Nicholson added, "The phrase 'sinister wisdom' comes from Joanna Russ's novel *The Female Man* in which an older woman is considering having a sexual relationship with a young woman of about 15. In the book,cross generational sexual relationships are taboo, and the older woman is having trouble facing what she calls the younger woman's 'sinister wisdom.' "

Desmoines and Nicholson ended their talk by again urging women to begin more publications for women: "It's easy. If we did in, you can too." Writer Anne Lee and poet Terry Wolverton, both published in *Sinister Wisdom,* also read from their works. ■

Letters

The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit all letters submitted for print. We welcome response from readers and recommend a maximum length of 500 words.

TRIVIALIZING THE HOLOCAUST?

Dear Editors,
I feel angry when I read *The Lesbian Tide* and find anti-semitism in its pages, and once again this occurred in the Frances Farmer article by Cindy Frazier in your last issue.

To compare Frances Farmer's move from a sanitarium in Los Angeles to her hometown of Seattle to a Jew escaping the russian pogroms and landing in Auschwitz, is, once again, using the Holocaust for analogy (now that it's in vogue to talk about it). It's *belittling* what six million Jews experienced in one of the worst massacres in history by making it analogous to someone's personal pain. What the Jews experienced will never be able to be compared to anything else.
Paula Tobin, San Francisco, CA.

BETTER LUCK NEXT ISSUE

Dear *Lesbian Tide,*
Although I usually love your mag., this last issue I found disgusted me. The worst was Achy Obejas' non-music review of Izquierda Ensemble's album, *Quiet Thunder.* The main thing I got from it is that the reviewer is angry because this Chicana musician who lives in the Northwest creates music with whites, the other women of Izquierda.

Women in the Northwest have heard them in concerts and love their music, crave their tapes and records.

This review was a natural companion piece to (that on) Sirani Avedis. I can't tell if either does anything positive for race relations.

"Night At the Bar" was not funny or interesting in any other way. Sorry.

Frances Farmer was interesting but pathetic. I wonder why you didn't mention her autobiography, *Will There Really Be A Morning?* Also, what's this "Frances Farmer Died for Our Sins" heading on this article?
Frances Farmer died "so that America would be safe from people like us." OK, but did she "die for our sins?"
Sincerely, Thyme S. Seagull, Sacramento, CA

LETTER WRITING ACTIVIST

Dear Sisters,

Despite your having to cut the number of pages in the Jan./Feb. *Lesbian Tide,* I felt that you put together an excellent issue.

I'd like to respond to an item which appeared under the subheading "Right Wing Moves Too" in the National News section which mentioned that Rev. Jerry Falwell has a national mail campaign organization which sends out hundreds of pieces of mail on right wing issues.

It has bothered me for some time that there is a conspicuous lack of letter writing organizations in the feminist, lesbian, and gay movements.

For instance, what is the Senate bill number of the "Family Protection Act"? We could all write letters of opposition to this if we had the specific information and the names of key Senate committee persons.

For many of us who don't have the time or money (or security) to contribute to active organizations, letter writing is a form of activism which can bring monumental results. *Lesbian Tide* could provide a springboard for such activism by providing a page or even a half page of information about issues which need supprt in the form of letters. Readers who know of such issues could send you the information, thereby minimizing some of the work of your writers.
In the spirit of constructiveness, love and kisses, Claudia, California

Editor's Reply: The Senate bill number of the Family Protection Act sponsored by Sen. Paul Laxalt (R-NV) is SB 1808. This bill is currently pending before the Senate Finance Committee which will hear it sometime in March or April. From there it will go to the Labor & Human Relations Committee, and finally to the Senate Judiciary Committee (Chaired by Ted Kennedy). People should now write any of the following members of the Finance Committee: Chair, Russell Long (LA), Herman Talmadge (GA), Daniel P. Moynihan, (NY), John Heinz (PA), Bill Bradly (NJ), Abraham Ribicoff (CT), Harry Byrd, Jr. (VA), or Bob Dole (KS).

We will try to be more conscientious about providing the tools (numbers, names, addresses) our letter writing activists need to work with. Thanks, for the push. . . .

THE $5,000 SPONGE

Dear *Tide* Wymin,

In response to "Tampons can be Dangerous to Your Health," in *LT* Jan./Feb. 1980, I would like to herald the use of small whole sponges, completely bypassing the use of capitalistic, degrading, patriarchal tampons and the anticoagulant chemicals contained therein. Not to mention the savings of an average $5,000 per woman's lifetime.

A length of dental floss sewn into a sponge makes an easy drawstring. The sponge, washed out during period as needed, and soaked in vinegar for a day or so between periods — results in a safe, practical, and economical way to take care of our bodies our *own* way. I have been using the same 79¢ sponge for 13 months now.

From an appropriate technology earth bound sister, Jennifer Fipps, Davis, CA

ACLU AND WOMEN'S LITIGATION

Dear Friends of Women's Rights,

As many of you know, since Jill Jakes left the ACLU to assume her duties on the bench, we have been under-staffed and unable to meet the demand in the area of women's rights. Recently, our staff has been augmented by three new attorneys, one of whom has assumed responsibility for women's rights litigation.

We would therefore like to explore with you the possibility of bringing law suits to further the fight for equality for women.

We urge you to seek our assistance if you feel that our organization and staff can be of help.
Most sincerely, Ramona Ripston, ACLU Foundation of Southern California.
Editor's Note: The ACLU Foundation can be reached at 633 South Shatto Place, Los Angeles, CA 90005 or 213/487-1720.

CANADA STOPS LESBIAN BOOK

Dear Womyn,

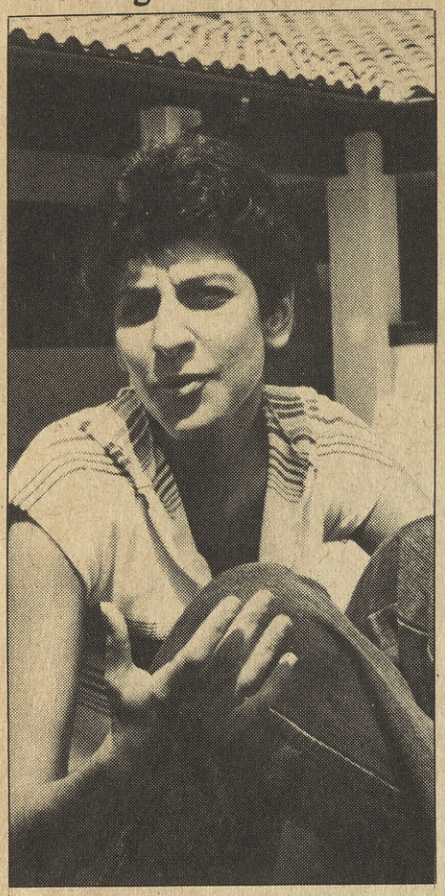
In the last issue I received, *LT* Nov./Dec. 1979, it was exciting to find so many new Lesbian books, records, etc., for me to order. I rely a lot on being able to order from the States since it is very difficult to find newly published Lesbian material here in Canada. One of the books I had ordered was B. Balliet and P. Patton's new book, *Graphic Details* from Star Publications. Today I received a confiscation notice from Revenue Canada Customs and Excise, complete with file numbers stating that the shipment to me was forwarded for examination and was ruled to be immoral or indecent.

Once again I am reminded that my paranoia is justified. With all the sexist, dangerous male pornography surrounding us constantly, they confiscate a book sent to me in the mail. I'm not naive enough to not realize how threatening Lesbian material is to the male dominated fucked up world. It really infuriates and scares me to realize even my mail is being opened and examined. It really makes me sick to think of the men who have had their hands on this book. I'm wondering how long I'll be able to continue receiving *Lesbian Tide* and other publications before they're confiscated, examined and ruled to be immoral or indecent.
In sisterlove and struggle, Georgeth Ganne, Canada

***continued on page* 16**

Response to

"Feeling As A Dark Woman" (Interview: Sirani Avedis)



Sirani Avedis
Avedis interview prompts controversy.

WORRIED ABOUT THE GAP

Dear Women of *The Tide,*

After reading the interview with Sirani Avedis in last month's edition, I found myself once again feeling frustrated with the gap women of color are choosing to widen between themselves and the "white feminist movement." As a white, Jewish lesbian (who actually doesn't look that different from Sirani) who has worked actively since she was a child, for the rights and freedom of blacks, inner city children, farmworkers, gays, women, etc., I feel constantly shit on for not being a minority. I spent a couple of years living in an inner-city black community with a black man before I came out, so I probably have a better perspective of what it means to be a black woman in that community than many white women. I certainly know what it's like to be "his woman" and the "white honky bitch whore," which is no pretty picture either. There are many white feminist women whose "natural tendency is to work with one other person or solitarily, and to do work very perfectionisticly, to be work-a-holics, very intense and very involved." (Pg. 4 Sirani's interview)

Women don't have to unite in a collective to be powerful and unified, white, black, brown, or otherwise. I can never fully understand the dark woman's life, but I depend upon her to help teach me what I need to understand so that we as women can help and know each other better.

We can't let ourselves be victims of the separation and hatred that men have created in our society to keep every group of people from trusting and knowing every other group. We as women have to be able to see through the lies and individually take the power to help ourselves. As long as we remain separate and hateful towards each other, we are still puppets in the hands of men.

And that should never be.

Thank you, Ann Kramer, CA

ANGRY AT AGEISM

Dear *Lesbian Tide,*

I was glad to see *The Lesbian Tide,* old friend from L.A. And then, midway through the article on Sirani Avedis it happened again. Anger, my body stiffening, pain that once more ageism glares at me. Frustration! How can I make women hear that when they define young as "beautiful, strong, and good" it makes me, who is *not* young, feel real bad. I want us all to feel ok about ourselves, but not at each other's expense. Young means being born since 1950, or 1955, that's all it means.

Sincerely, Tita Caldwell, Northern California

LESBIAN RACISM: DAILY HEARTBREAK

Dear *Lesbian Tide,*

As a Puerto Rican lesbian I was elated to find an interview with Sirani Avedis in the last issue. I am always strengthened to see dark womyn being given press. It makes me know we are not alone. Dealing with racism in the lesbian community is nothing less than daily heartbreak. Many dark lesbians have decided it's not worth it. And of those who remain, many have chosen to be silent rather than have the pain of their heart be distorted, excused or unheard.

In her concerts, Sirani has shown such strength and vulnerability by speaking out about racism. Many womyn think racism should be mentioned once and never again. Or there are those who assume because they are lesbians and deal with (this) oppression, they are incapable of oppressing others.

It is obvious that this interview got slaughtered. What happened? When Sirani was interviewed, did she know the piece would appear as a monologue? Where are the questions, the leads and responses, the other half of this interview?

Do not misinterpret this letter to mean that I disagree with the content of Sirani's interview. Hardly. Every paragraph, every sentence struck a "minor mournful" cord. Each issue she spoke about is an intense survival issue for dark lesbians who have chosen to work within the womyn's communities, who know that survival on this planet means womyn's survival.

Having grown up in small midwest white communities of amerika's melting pot, I realized at age 26 how much of me *had* melted. It is only from the last two yers of knowing the dark womyn I know, of reading about other dark womyn, hearing lesbians like Sirani and Naomi Littlebear (Isquerida Ensemble) in song and struggle that I have begun to mold myself back into the Puerto Rican womyn that I am.

I don't know whether it was lack of ability about how to recognize the heart of the interview or just plain racism that resulted in this slanted "perspective." After snarling my way through half of "Egyptian Venus" by Cheri Lesh in the same issue, I tend to think it was the latter. I won't go into outraged detail about that story; but, it was disgustingly racist and a slap in the face to every dark womon who reads *Lesbian Tide.*

As a lesbian newspaper you have a responsibility to dark womyn not to print this kind of racist soulbearing.

Sincerely, *Laura Ramirez-Orabona, Freeland, MICH.*

DUMBFOUNDED ABOUT FRIGIDITY

Dear Editors,

I picked up a copy of the January/February *Lesbian Tide* at my local women's bookstore and was dumbfounded to read the first article, "Feeling As a Dark Woman." Right there in the middle of page five were the most racist comments I have read in a long while. How enlightening to know that white women are frigid while dark women are oversexed and big busted. I quote,

". . .White women aren't very sexual on stage because they are really repressed. . .

Dark women on the other hand can hardly contain ourselves from being sexy, because we are just not repressed in our body movements, and our body types are usually more full. . ."

If Ms. Avedis were not a dyke, she probably would have mentioned that dark men have bigger penises too.

Sincerely, Marion Saxton, Worcester, Mass.

APPALLED BY RACISM

Dear *Tide,*

Sirani Avedis is an Armenian American lesbian musician who is not afraid to speak out as an anti-feminist, a dark racist, a woman hating lesbian. This strain of thinking or rather non-thinking, of Sirani and other "girls" like her is just what we all need to totally demolish everything we have begun to accomplish. Yes, the women's movement is primarily white, and racism is a problem. However, bit by bit we are beginning to look at that issue and to work on it. Racism and classism must, I emphasize MUST, be a priority for us if we have any hopes of a feminist reality. Sirani gives us that classic old argument: why even try, we 'whiteys' will *never* get beyond our racism. It's the old divide and conquer attitude — divide and be conquered some more. (Note: she used the words "white" and "racism" 30 times.)

The whole interview was completely offensive, the ideas expressed will destroy any lesbian and/or feminist solidarity. As a lesbian I was offended, as a feminist I was appalled, and as a student of political art I was outraged. The whole thing reeks of right wing reactionary thought with words from the left. I refuse to accept her stance, and to give any support to her ideas, and it is not predicated on her color. I will not support her and if I did I would be just the white woman she talks about. My support goes to all women, all colors, straight or lesbian who struggle with the issues and don't give up as Sirani suggests.

What's more — the article was one of the worst pieces of journalism I have encountered. Why must we settle for this spineless, tasteless poor quality. We have writers, journalists, lesbian feminist-critics and yet we continue to accept this mush without so much as a peep.

We can do better, we MUST do better.

With much care and concern, Susanna DesMarais, Santa Monica, CA

MOVED BY AVEDIS

Dear Lesbians:

We are a Puerto Rican Lesbian and a Black Lesbian who were very moved by your "interview" with Sirani Avedis in the Jan./Feb. issue of the *Tide.* We *feel* the anger she speaks about when we hear white womyn sing our songs or tell about our struggles. We know how it feels to be isolated in political groups because as dark lesbians we are outnumbered, or because we see another way of doing things besides the "collective" white norm. We have been jumped on and ostracised for having too much to say and saying it too passionately. We *feel* what Sirani Avedis has to say in her words and in her music.

We've read this interview many times because we couldn't understand its content. What were the questions Sirani was answering? How did the conversation get from white womyn to the problems of collective struggle to racial and ethnic oppression to. . .etc?

Who interviewed Sirani? And most important, was she white, Black, Puerto Rican, Asian, Chicana? It is hard for us to believe that Sirani would have made herself so vulnerable on some of the issues she discusses with a white lesbian. Deleting this information has only served to continue the stereotype of dark lesbians as inscrutable, angry without cause, bitter without vision and preoccupied with sex.

Sandra Lara, Melanctha Deanchild

OUTRAGED BY TRASHING

Dear Editors,

We feel The Tide is guilty of irresponsible journalism because it saw fit to print an article that trashed white women, and with one fell swoop, depicted them as racist and bigoted.

In her article Avedis says, "I feel collectivity is this American Western concept of equality and mediocrity where nobody excells. . .if dark women were the majority it would not even occur to us to work in these big-ass groups. Or maybe it would because we would be working with each other and we would want to work together!"

This sounds like a direct contradiction to us. . .what is Avedis saying, that collectives are no good because white women are in them, and if minority women were in them, they would then be good? She goes on to say ". . .The most arrogant part of this is that white women want us to join these groups of white women."

It seems to us that if white women did *not* want minority women included in groups that would then be racist. But Avedis contends that white women invite minority women to join collectives so that they can then "fuck them over every step of the way". According to Avedis white women are damned if they do, and damned if they don't. Blatently racist and bigoted on her part.

About her performances she states, ". . .White people want me to be phony. They want me to get up on stage and be what they want me to be, 'disguise your emotions'."

We don't know what white people she is referring to, but at the concerts we've

been to the audience is overwhelmingly loving and appreciative of performers and they want *all* musicians to do what they feel like doing. We can't imagine white women in any concerts wanting a performer, dark, white, light, or polka dotted to be anything other than what comes naturally and creatively to them.

Then she says, "In lesbian music there is a pretty conspicuous lack of sex on stage. . .white women aren't very sexual on stage because they are really repressed. Dark women on the other hand can hardly contain ourselves from being sexy. . .and if we let that fly I can just hear the comments!"

Blatantly racist again! Not only that, it is divisive. Is she comparing Meg Christian, Cris Williamson, Holly Near, etc. to minority women and finding the white women are not as sexy as minority women? In viewing the audience of a lesbian/feminist performer at any concert we've been to, the women in the audience go wild at the natural creativeness and style that is unique to each performer. We never saw an audience put down a performer for her color, and that assertion by Avedis is the most racist and unfair of all.

Then she goes on to ask, "Why is it negative to be called a name (girl) that means young, when to be young means to be beautiful, strong and good.

We'll tell you why! A fifty year old woman is beautiful, strong and good and hasn't been a girl for thirty five years and hasn't been young for fifteen years. We resent the term girl from anyone because it implies a dependent status. . .one not to be taken seriously. We never heard of a girl building her own home, running for political office, or arguing her case in a court of law. And we never heard any girl doing lesbian feminist music for a bunch of dykes who are stamping their feet and going wild over the lyrics. The performer is always a woman, and the color is always invisible.

There is certainly racism in the women's movement. . .of that there is no doubt. But let's stop the bullshit about projecting racism onto *every* white woman at *every* turn. The fact that one walks in a white woman's shoes and has never experienced the racism that exists towards non-whites doesn't make one a racist. But Avedis projects racism onto every white face in our movement, and to us, that makes her a racist. Let's attack racism where it starts, at the same place sexism starts. The doesn't make one a racist. Let's attack racism where it starts, at the same place sexism starts. The patriarchy is our enemy, our oppressor, and has his foot on our necks.

We believe that all women are a race unto themselves. We believe that the patriarchy continually tries to divide us, and to draft us into a war that is not our own. We are two women who refuse to go.

Jill Crawford and Sandy Tate, Los Angeles, CA

OBJECTIONS TO FORMAT

Dear Editors,

I object to the format used in your article on Sirani Avedis, i.e. the idea of using quotes, answers to questions, as though they came out from left field. I think you should have taken responsibility for your role in the interview.

If you weren't going to write a story using descriptives or editorial insight, then the Q & A approach (including both questions and answers) might have still been preferable, as it will help carry mood over.

Sirani Avedis is an incredible musician, a warm human being. She does not talk in monologues. She is affectionate, and has a great sense of humor. When she speaks of racism, it is not in the hollow bitter way that her quotes appear in that article. The interviewer or you as editors should have given some insight.

And I might ask at this point, if in fact Sirani spoke mostly on race and class, wasn't it because the interviewer pursued those topics, came back to them?

Two more errors.

You say that after playing as Sally Piano, Sirani returned to her given name. This is incorrect. Her given name is Sally Avedikian. She choose the name Sirani to get back in touch with her ethnic heritage. The root word Siran means rainbow and lavender in Armenian. . .As to the transformation from Avedikian to Avedis. . . all Armenian last names end in *-ian.* But unfortunately *-ian* means "son of," so she merely chose to drop it, leaving the root word "avedis" which means in Armenian "the bearer of messengers."

The other error is that there has not been a *5th* Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. Also the We Want The Music Collective spells womyn with a "y". . . *The Tide* mistakenly published "the 5th Annual Michigan Women's Music Festival." It should have read: "The 4th Annual Michigan Womyn's Music Festival."

In struggle, *Achy Obejas, Terrapin Records* (*Terrapin Records is Avedis' recording company.)

* * *

EDITORS REPLY

Dear Letter Writers and Readers,

We feel the real issue here is not the opinions of Sirani Avedis nor the editing of *The Lesbian Tide,* but racism.

If racism was an issue that enjoyed widespread agreement or resolution this article would not have generated so much feeling. We feel much of the response has been a "shoot the messenger" reaction. Sirani Avedis spoke about facts that exist in today's world. The fact that *she* is talking about it makes it easy to blame her for saying it, or saying it bluntly, or to blame this magazine for printing it, or editing too sharply.

We printed this article because we thought there was *some* truth in almost every point raised, because we knew Avedis' thoughts are echoed by many lesbians of color, and because her views were thought-provoking. This article certainly provoked a great deal of thought and emotion when it was read at our Editorial meetings. We argued, we denied, we were insulted, we debated. One editor said, "I resent being herded into a group called 'white women' and put down — even if it is true!"

The format used to present this article is not unusual to journalism nor to *The Tide.* This "self-quote-monologue" style was also used in the Holly Near (Sept./Oct. 79) and Robin Morgan (May/June 79) interviews. We have also used the "narrative" style with Robin Tyler (Sept./Oct. 78) and Sasha G. Lewis (Nov./Dec. 78). And we have used the "Q & A" (question and answer) format occasionally, as with Rita Mae Brown (Nov./Dec. 79).

Interestingly, no one said we took Holly Near's remarks out of context, or that the Robin Morgan interview was slaughtered or slanted. We did not tell any of these six women, including Avedis, what format would be used.

The interview with Avedis came about with a few hours notice and there were no prepared questions. The tape indicates the interview was in fact largely a running monologue. The subject of race was 95% of the interview, music and background about 5%.

The interviewer inserted several please-elaborate-on-what-you-said questions such as, "What do you mean when you say 'the idea of collectivity is white?" There were three questions posed by the interviewer. They were: "Do you think lesbian musicians have a political responsibility to lead, or just to reflect, what may be happening?" 'Do you think there is a difference between the way sex is treated in white culture and in dark people's culture?" and "How do you feel about being a dark woman musician in a field where eight out of ten are white?"

In re-listening to the tape we found one omission of a remark that could have changed an interpretation of one of Avedis' views. On pg. 5 Col. 1, bottom paragraph, Avedis said, "The more I associated myself with women and the more I separated myself from men the less relevant that

(not using the term "girl") became. *I would never use the word girl to straight women, absolutely never. Because it is important for them to know step one.* Step one is if men are. . ." The italized words were omitted.

This interview was conducted by Jeanne Cordova and transcribed by Lizette Burleson. The transcription was read by the Editorial Board (see front page) and then edited by Claire Krulikowski. The final version was approved by the Editorial Board. In order to divide our workload it is not unusual for a single article to be worked through these stages by several people.

Cordova is Latina, Burleson is Asian, Krulikowski is Polish, the other two editors (Sharon McDonald and Kerry Lobel) are white and Jewish, respectively.

In deference to space limitations (Avedis is not a *one* issue woman) we did omit some whole topics, and some personal background statements Avedis made. The personal comments left out were each only one or two sentences, but they sometimes illustrate how her life experiences contributed to her views. We cut some examples and elaborations and we presented her conclusions in a manner which may have contributed to her appearing more definite, more cut and dried. We did not change her content, intent, or conclusions, but as in most interviews, we did abbreviate how she got to them.

A second note of explanation is that people always appear more definite in print than they sound in conversation. In the medium of print it is hard to spell laughter, inflection or tone.

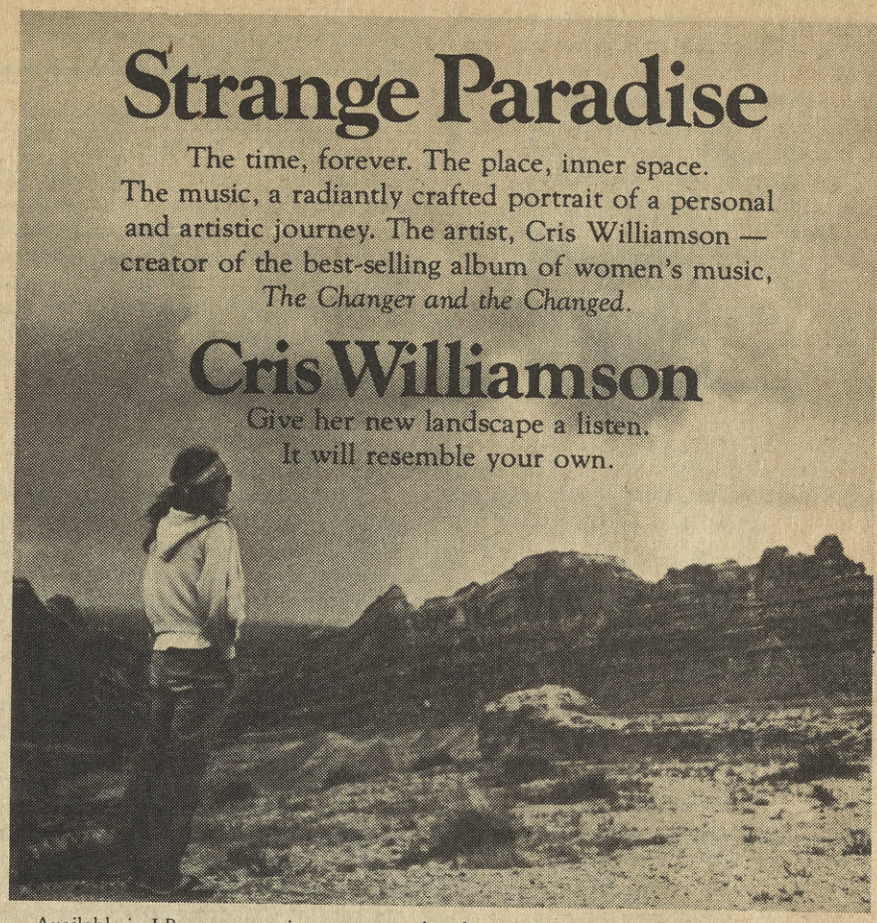
In the Robin Morgan article we did not say Morgan is a mother, or that she is animated, playful and dramatic. We did not say that Holly Near is thoughtful, gracious or careful. We did not say Avedis is warm, fun loving or sensitive. We are uncomfortable with the fact that some questions here imply that Avedis' views might have been more acceptable if someone had said what a sweet, warm, terrific human being she was. Does this imply that the credibility of a woman's political analysis is based on her personality?

In retrospect we feel because the content in this article is so controversial perhaps we should have softened it anyway — so more people could hear the truth behind the anger.

A final factor is that the staff devoted less time to the entire January/February issue than we normally do. This is because several personal and work factors took core amounts of staff time during the fall months. We regret if any authors or readers were negatively effected by our limitations.

We thank all readers for their support and responses and welcome further comment.

— The Editorial Board (Sharon McDonald, Kerry Lobel, Jeanne Cordova). Claire Krulkowski was out of town during this discussion. ■


Strange Paradise
The time, forever. The place, inner space.
The music, a radiantly crafted portrait of a personal and artistic journey. The artist, Cris Williamson — creator of the best-selling album of women's music, *The Changer and the Changed.*
Cris Williamson
Give her new landscape a listen.
It will resemble your own.

Available in LP or cassette in many record and women's stores, or from Olivia Records, Dept. T, 4400 Market St., Oakland CA 94608. $7.00 includes postage and handling.

Sapphic Journeys

SENSUOUS POETRY FOR LESBIANS

AT LAST! FOR THOSE ROMANTIC EVENINGS AT HOME . . .

LESBIAN POETRY with MUSIC

ON STEREO CASSETTE

$7.97 DISCREETLY WRAPPED
PLUS 75¢ FOR POSTAGE/HANDLING
(CALIF. RESIDENTS ADD 48¢ TAX)

SEND CHECK TO

WOMONSOUNDS

DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED

DEPT. LT ☐ P.O. BOX 65891 ☐ LOS ANGELES, CA 90065

Big Bear Lake

(714) 585-2575
1037 Big Bear Blvd.
P.O. Box 1640
Big Bear City,
California 92314

Barbara **Bonnie**

Gloria **Carol**

WILLOW

BEAUTIFUL SECLUDED RETREAT

Hot Tub Sauna

Pool

Tennis Court

60 miles north of San Francisco and Oakland

Available to Groups & Individuals
7 Days a Week
$15 Per Day Per Person.

Call or Write for Further Information and Brochure.

(707) 944-8173 6517 Dry Creek Rd.
Napa, CA 94558

Shortcurrents

LESBIAN PLAY CENSOR TARGET

Northern Ireland lesbians and gay men are fighting attempts to close down the first lesbian play to be performed in Ulster. The musical, "I like me Like This," was produced by the Gay Sweatshop Women's Company. The all lesbian production deals with a lesbian feminist household, and with the questions of open relationships, rape, and revenge.

SWEDISH GAYS HOLD SICK OUT

A large group of lesbians and gay men in Stockholm, Sweden, recently phoned in sick to their employers, reporting that they felt ill with homosexuality.

This protest moved the Swedish State Health Board to reverse its classification of homosexuality as an illness.

Furthermore, the Board agreed to destroy all records of individuals classified as having been stricken with the "disease."

PRECIOUS MEMENTOS

Last year a time capsule that had been sealed in 1879 was opened in San Francisco. Among the books and papers was a seemingly typical offical guide to the geysers of California. Inside the cover, the author of the pamphlet, Laura De Force Gordon, had written the following inscription: "If this little book should see the light of day after its 100 years entombment, I should like the readers to know that the author was a lover of her own sex, and devoted the best years of her life in striving for the political equality and social and moral elevation of women."

GAY FILMMAKERS PROTEST FILM EXCLUSION

The National Association of Lesbian and Gay Filmmakers is petitioning PBS station WNET to show Jan Oxenburg's film "A Comedy in Six Unnatural Acts." WNET rejected this film which satirizes stereotypes of lesbians and three other films about Third World, workers and women's health movements from its "Independent Focus" series which provides a showcase for independent filmmakers. Letters should be sent to Mr. J. Iselin, President WNET Channel 13, 356 W. 58th Street, New York, NY 10036.

FEMINISTS BLOCK ABORTION TRIAL IN SPAIN

A massive public campaign has forced postponement of a trial on abortion charges of 11 working class women in Bilbao, Spain.

Although the judge suspended the trial, ostensibly because two of the women did not appear in court, defense lawyers claimed the move was politically motivated. "The judges are afraid to condemn them after the enormous campaign launched by women in all of the Spanish provinces," said a representative of the Viscaya Woman's Assembly.

The Coordinadora de Organisaciones Feministas was responsible for nationwide campaign against the trial. Feminists demonstrated, demanded motions of support from local governments, and called for both an amnesty of the case and a reform of the law.

KIDS OF LESBIANS DIFFERENT FROM STRAIGHTS

Beverly Hoeffer of the University of California at San Francisco's School of Nursing says, yes, kids of lesbians *are* different from kids of straight women.

She found that 40 percent of the sons of lesbians tested using the "Sex Role Concept Scale", scored as sex type feminine, meaning they were gentler and more concerned with other people's feelings than other boys. None of the sons of straight mothers did. Fifty per cent of the daughters of lesbians scored as sex type masculine, with stronger qualities of leadership and outgoingness; again none of the daughters of straight mothers did.

DEFINING OURSELVES

Ronda Carlson, a lesbian, is conducting a national survey to determine how lesbians define themselves and their communities. She now needs lesbians willing to complete a lengthy questionnaire. The survey takes about 1 1/2 hours to complete, confidentiality is assured. To request a questionnaire write: Ronda Carlson, 3014 Millmar Dr., Dallas, TX 75228.

WASHINGTON COMMITTEE CONFERENCE

An ad hoc committee of the March on Washington for Lesbian & Gay Rights will hold a national policy conference March 7-9 at Oberlin College in Ohio. The purpose of the Conference is to "determine what will be done with the network which was established while organizing for the March."

The proposed agenda includes: a financial report, a forum "Where do we go from here?", proposals for organizing the structure of an on-going organization. Joyce Hunter, a member of the Oberlin organizing committee told *Gay Community News,* ". . .This is the most extensive network of lesbian and gay activists this nation has ever seen. If we could bring over 100,000 to Washington, we have the responsibility to continue to build our grass roots movement." For further information call Randy Boarman in Pittsburgh at (412) 422-4563.

GAY ALCOHOLISM GROUP GROWING

The National Association of Gay Alcoholism Professionals (NAGAP), begun last July, reports its membership is growing fast and it now has more than 90 members from 24 states. The group, which seeks to serve as a clearinghouse for information about gay persons and alcoholism, is now preparing a list of books, journal articles, papers, etc., as a resource for other writers. For further information contact: NAGAP, P.O. Box 376, Oakland, NJ 07436, or call (201) 337-1087.

GAY CENSUS TAKERS WANTED

The Recruiting Director of the Bureau of the Census, Mikel Miller, has sent a letter to the National Gay Task Force asking that lesbians and gay men sign up April 1 to become census takers. "At the suggestion of the President, I am writing you to ask your help in recruiting. . ." Miller wrote NGTF.

The Chicano(a) and other communities have stressed the necessity of their people participating in the census process, as interviewers and interviewees, because the statistical results form the basis for reapportionment of the Congress and state legislatures. They also determine allocations for more than 100 federally funded programs. Gays are also urged to be open about their single and/or gay status where questions allow. Those interested in this job (pays $4 to $4.50 hr.) should call or write Miller, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20233.

THE GREAT AMERICAN LESBIAN ART SHOW

Los Angeles lesbian artists have gathered to sponsor the Great American Lesbian Art Show. This national series of exhibits and events honoring lesbian creativity will begin May 1 at the Los Angeles Woman's Building. The sponsors of this idea, the Woman's Building and the L.A. Gay Community Services Center, invite women across the country to organize exhibits of lesbian art in their own communities in both galleries and non-traditional space. They invite women who want to show their work to contact them in L.A. Women who want to be GALAS co-ordinators in their own cities/area should also contact them. Women who want to be in the L.A. exhibit should send 3 slides of their work to GALAS by April 15. All work will be collected in a permanent archive of lesbian art. To obtain brochure or receive further information on how to develop your GALAS participation write: GALAS, % GCSC, P.O. Box 3877, Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90038. ■

LESBIAN MINISTER PRESSURED TO QUIT

Rev. Jane Spahr, the executive director of Oakland's Council of Presbyterian Churches, has been forced to resign because of her lesbianism.

Spahr tendered her resignation after the nine churches which make up the Council divided hopelessly over the issue of whether their Lesbian director should remain. Two of the nine withdrew from the council and two others affirmed Spahr's right to continue. The five others could not reach consensus within their individual congregations. Spahr's resignation resulted from that deadlock. At present the Presbyterian Church forbids the ordination of openly homosexual ministers. Spahr was ordained before she came out as a lesbian.

DUNLAP JOINS GRA

Gay Rights Advocates, a San Francisco based public interest law firm, has announced that Mary Dunlap, a prominent civil rights attorney. has joined the GRA staff. Dunlap, who has extensive experience in sex discrimination and gay rights litigation, argued the case of Berg v. Richmond Unified School District, which involved pregnancy leave for school teachers, before the U.S. Supreme Court. She also argued a lesbian naval discharge case, Saal v. Middendorf, before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Dunlap is co-founder of Equal Rights Advocates, a San Francisco based feminist public interest law firm.
(reprinted from *Gay Community News)*

COMING & GOING IN NYC

Womanews is New York's new women's newspaper which provides an extensive calendar of events as well as local and national news. Their address is P.O. Box 220 Village Station, New York, NY 10014.

The Club, a new cabaret which features feminist discussions and entertainment, has opened on Bleecker and Jones Street in Greenwich Village. However, upper East Side women have lost their posh club, The Sahara, which was evicted by its building's new owners. No reason for the eviction was given.

MARTIN APPOINTED TO CALIF. CRIME COMMISSION

Del Martin, author of *Lesbian Woman* and *Battered Wives,* and resident of San Francisco, has been appointed by California's Governor Jerry Brown to the California Commission on Crime Control and Violence Prevention. The commission was created by the legislature in 1979 to study the causes of violence and crime. The term of the commission expires January 1, 1983.

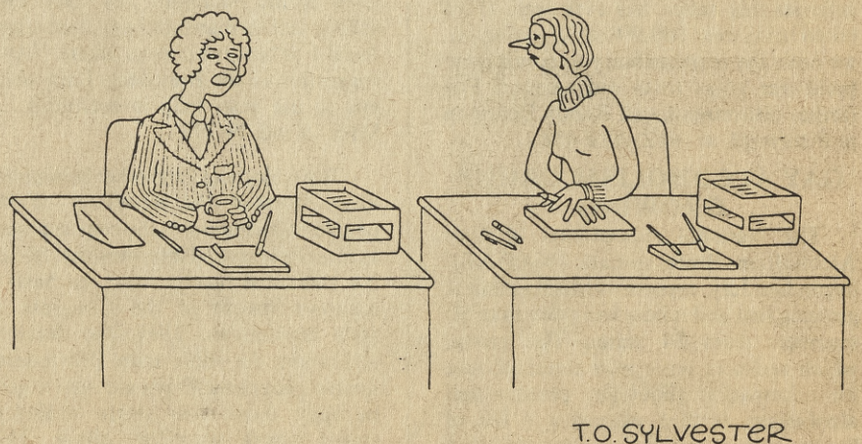
GAY COPS SOUGHT

"You don't have to be straight to be a good cop" are the words printed on thousands of posters being distributed in the lesbian and gay community in San Francisco. The posters, sponsored by a group called Gay Outreach, are seeking to attract lesbians and gay men to become police officers. Radio and T.V. announcements have also been planned. The program has the backing of newly installed Chief of Police Cornelius P. Murphy, who says all candidates will be judged "on their professional ability alone."

BAR OWNER CLEARED OF ARSON CHARGES

Mac McCann, lesbian activist and manager of the St. Louis "Mor or Les" women's bar, which was firebombed last September, has been cleared of arson charges.

Citing lack of evidence, the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's office refused to issue an arson warrant against McCann. Organizers of a committee formed to defend her suggested that police and media efforts to pin the blame on her for the bar's bombing were motivated by opposition to her stands on lesbian and women's rights.



"Well, I've heard the only way to get ahead in this company is to wear a suit and a tie."

Reviews

A Writer on Film

By C.E. Frazier

World of Light: A Portrait of May Sarton, by Marita Simpson and Martha Wheelock, Ishtar Enterprises, NY.

May Sarton, although well published in her fifty years as a novelist and poet, has never received the critical attention that she deserves as both a prolific and powerful author. In *"World of Light: A Portrait of May Sarton"* she is realized, rather than analyzed, and the effect is extraordinary. Marita Simpson and Martha Wheelock of Ishtar Enterprises have made a film that is absolutely worthy of their subject — a very rare film rendering of a woman writer.

A bare thirty minutes long, the film nevertheless covers a great deal of ground — from Sarton's isolated physical existence to her rich and luminous inner life. The film-makers have attempted to portray Sarton's transparency, her own word for the effect she tries to create in her writing, and also a personal ethic. At times frightening to other people, she explains, this is a quality of being oneself, of being "in touch" that has become a kind of religion to her. Whether or not it succeeds in creating personal harmony, it is the well-spring of Sarton's art, and also infuses this film with a powerful and subtle transcendentalism.

May Sarton at 70-plus is a marvelous role model for lesbians, and for all women who live creatively. An example of her strength is the fact that, after living for years in Cambridge and not getting the recognition she wanted, she left Boston for a tiny town in New Hampshire from which to work independently. She now lives outside an even smaller village, in virtual isolation but for the dozens of letters she receives each week from her readers.

May Sarton and her father George Sarton, 1929.

May Sarton at her graduation from high school, 1926.

The film also makes very clear the influence and importance of women in Sarton's life and growth. She talks about Elizabeth Bowen, Virginia Woolf and others; meanwhile, we are treated to photo glimpses of Sarton as a young, svelt lesbian.

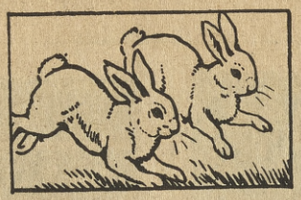
One of the greatest strengths of this film — and of May Sarton — is understatement. Flowers and mountains are featured as well as Sarton reading her poetry, gardening, walking her cat. The interviews, which were obviously filmed at different times, express separate facets of Sarton's personality, and she becomes known to the audience in the way we get to know our friends. She talks movingly about writing, gardening, her mother, aloneness, and in a very intimate final scene, her own death.

It is almost impossible to describe the effect of this film. Simply, it is an exquisite experience. Suitable for general or women's audiences of any age, this film is a must-see. If it doesn't come to your city on this tour, write to Ishtar Enterprises, 305 East 11th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10003, or phone 212-477-3702. ■

Gayle Wilson & Assoc.
Realtor
Residential—Investment—Management
Call
Ivy Bottini
Carole Ellis
Deborah Johnson
Sharon McDonald
Martie McLendon
Bridget Overton
Maureen Steinberg
Laurie Stewart
Dottie Wine
540 N. San Vicente
Los Angeles, Calif. 90048
(213) 659-9988

Womanyes
SO. CAL'S ♀ POWERED MANUFACTURING CO.
11336 RANCHITO ST.,
EL MONTE, CA. 91732 213-444-9862
T-SHIRTS · TANKS · SWEATSHIRTS
FRENCHCUTS · WORKSHIRTS · CUSTOM
LEATHER · CERAMICS · JEWELRY
BUTTONS · RECORDS · WOODWORK
Wholesale · Retail · Custom
CATALOG 25¢ MAIL ORDER ONLY

SINISTER WISDOM POSTER by Tee Corinne, 17"x22", $3.50
ONE YEAR (4 issues) $7.50
SAMPLE ISSUE $3.00
Box 30541, Lincoln, Ne. 68503
SINISTER WISDOM
A Journal of Words and Pictures for the Lesbian Imagination in All Women



Celebrate the return of Spring ...
with Alix Dobkin!

Pat Riese and Julie James present

A Spring Equinox concert with

Alix Dobkin

Friday, March 21 8 p.m.
at the Fritchman Auditorium
2936 W. 8th Street in Los Angeles
admission: $5

Childcare provided.
Wheelchair accessible; sign language interpreter provided.
This event is for women only.

WAVAW
Women Against Violence Against Women
Presents

an evening of Good-time Music with

Robin Flower **Nancy Vogl**

HOLLY NEAR

Laurie Lewis **Adrienne Torf**

Tickets $8.00
Produced by Patt Riese

Wheelchair accessible
Childcare will be provided

Tickets available at
Page One, 42 N. Lake, Pasadena
WAVAW, 1727 N. Spring St. L.A.
Feminist Wicca, 442 Lincoln Blvd. Venice
Sisterhood Bookstore, 1351 Westwood Blvd. L.A.
Womanbooks, Etc., 13722 Burbank Blvd. Van Nuys

SATURDAY **MARCH 29** **8PM**

EMBASSY AUDITORIUM **823 S. Grand, L.A.**
Just off the Harbor freeway in downtown L.A. Between 8th and 9th on Grand

For more information call Patt (818) 5448 or WAVAW 721-8771

Windows: A Pane & an Insult

By Jeanne Cordova

Windows, A Michael Lobell Production. Released by United Artists. Directed by Gordon Willis.

Windows belongs to the genre of cinematic mediocrity aptly dismissed as "the B movie." Everything about it, plot, characters, and melodrama is tired and hackneyed.

The plot is psycho terrorizes innocent, the good guy gets the girl in the end. The sequence: obscene phone calls, telescopic peeping through skyscraper windows, elevator escapades, miscellaneous dead bodies, is a bore.

In an attempt to divert the audience, *Windows* offers a latent lesbian, instead of the usual sick male, as the terrorizing psychotic. A second cheap grabber is the opening scene which finds a man hired by Andrea (Elizabeth Ashley) raping the recipient of her "love." In actuality a sexual rape does not take place, but the terror of watching a knife being held *in* the mouth of a woman while an aggressor has complete control of her life and body, is enough to make you leave your seat and go buy a gun.

This exercise in brutality suggests that rape is easy, and exciting. Secondly, *Windows* seeks to confirm what many heterosexuals already believe: all lesbians are sick. For thousands who see this film, the psychotic murderer is the only lesbian they will ever know. As lesbian feminist theoretician charlotte Bunch says, "It *(Windows)* distorts lesbian love beyond recognition, and raises fears of lesbianism to divide women and distract us from challenging the real perpetrators of violence against women."

As a movie *Windows* is also a flop. Sterling performances by Elizabeth Ashley, the psychotic, and Talia Shire, the victim, do not make an unbelievable script credible. Would you believe a million to one coincidence — the rapist accidentally reappears as victim's cab driver? In New York! Or, faced with 5 to 10 for assault, the cabbie/rapist refuses to tell police who hired him. If he had, the movie would have ended an hour earlier.

If one looks closely it appears *Windows* was once (in the novel?) a study of psychosis. The film superficially explores the mind of Andrea, who tells her psychiatrist she doesn't see any reason to distinguish between what she wants and what is really happening. But sloppy direction by cinematographer Gordon Willis (his directoral debut) precludes any real understanding of Andrea or the other main characters. It is as if Willis couldn't make up his mind whether to design a terror film, a study of lesbianism, a murder mystery, or a look at mental illness.

Politically, *Windows* is a gross insult to feminism and lesbianism. This movie has already been picketed by dozens of groups in New York and Los Angeles (see National News).

It is a sick circumstance that lesbianism has now become popularized to the extent that the movie industry believes it can get away with using a lesbian character in such a role. Hollywood is always looking for something to sell. This exploitation has to be challenged, or it will continue. ■

think straight
be Gay

Send 25¢ to receive catalog (212) 255-8097
Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop
15 Christopher Street, New York City 10014

WINDHAVEN

A Feminist Science Fiction Quarterly

Subscriptions $6/4 issues
Sample copy $2

Ikesdatter Press
P.O. Box 5172 G. Seattle, WA 98105

Fri.
APRIL
25th
8 and 10pm
at jett's cafe
964 w. manchester

tickets: $5.00
available: at the door
at Women's Shops
or by mail (Info: 477-0324)

WOMEN'S CHOICE CLINIC
Complete Gynecological Services
Pregnancy Screening

V.D. Screening	Pap (Cancer) Smears
Abortions	Vaginal Infections
After Care	Urinary Infections
Birth Control	Sickle Cell Test
Counseling	Routine Gyn Exams

For information and appointments call
FEMINIST WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER
(L.A.) (213) 936-6293

for a message that's right on the button!

MOTHER NATURE IS A LESBIAN
design by Liza Cowan, artwork by Smokey

Mother Nature creates everything from femaleness. There is no "father nature." Mother Nature shows us that the power of women is limitless.

N.Y. RESIDENTS ADD SALES TAX .55 each
WHITE MARE PRESTON HOLLOW, N.Y. 12469

"What about the festival this year?"*

* This year Gwen Avery, Meg Christian, Maxine Feldman, Robin Flower, Terry Garthwaite, Julie Homi, Carol McDonald & Isis, Holly Near, Robin Tyler, Nancy Vogl, and Mary Watkins will be at the National Women's Music Festival, May 29th thru June 1st, will you?

	Full Week	Weekend
Before April 10	$32	$23
Before May 1	37	28
At the Door	42	32

Single Concert $8.50 Single Workshop $2.00
No refunds after May 22

NATIONAL WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL
P.O. Box 2721 Station A LT
Champaign, IL 61820

ENCLOSE THIS IN AN ENVELOPE WITH YOUR CHECK. Make your check payable to NWMF. Your cancelled check will serve as your receipt.

I am registering for the entire week _____
weekend only _____
Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Do you need community housing? _____
(if so bring a bed roll)
Camping Space _____ Dorm Room _____
Do you have any special requirements (allergies, gender preference, etc.)? _____
Are you in need of child care? _____
(how many children?)

MR. M'S

San Gabriel Valley's Only Gay Disco

Celebrate Your Birthday at Mr. M's

you have the fun and we will supply your cake and your first well drink (details at bar)

MONDAY NIGHT
WOMENS NIGHT
Well drinks $1
Beer 50¢

Open Daily
7 pm - 2 am
Disco at 9:00

500 S. Citrus
Covina, Calif.

apple room
510 n. hoover st.
los angeles, cal. 90004
662-1534
susan talbot
handcrafted batiks
supplies and lessons

LABYRIS
AUTO REPAIR
COMPLETE CAR CARE
••BY WOMEN••
IN DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO
ON ALL FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS
ALL WORK GUARANTEED
240-6TH ST./FOLSOM/HOWARD/S.F./8618668

Spiral, Moon, Mirror:

The Goddess Returns

By Cheri Lesh

The Spiral Dance, By Starhawk, Harper & Row, NY, $6.95.

Drawing Down the Moon, By Margot Adler, Viking Press, NY, $16.95.

Ancient Mirrors of Womanhood, By Merlin Stone, New Sybilline Books, NY, $6.95.

The art of writing has been acknowledged in many cultures as a 'gift of the Goddess'; whether the name of the Goddess was Bridgit, Isis, or Ishtar, the source of inspiration was the same. That deity must be smiling broadly now, as three of the best books written on Goddess spirituality have emerged as a complementary triad.

The first, Starhawk's *The Spiral Dance* is, quite simply the best 'how-to' book on Witchcraft in existance. With great candor and simplicity Starhawk provides a guide explaining the purpose and meaning of the Craft, exercises for developing magical skills such as grounding, visualization and raising energy, and how to organize a coven. Throughout the book Starhawk maintains a sparkling sense of humor, resisting the temptation to succumb to the lure of self-advertising and instant guru-hood. The tone of the book could be described as one of practical poetics; Starhawk handles language beautifully, conveying her lively imagination and sense of earthly delights along with practical information that any woman, from spiritual neophyte to seasoned Priestess, can apply to her psychic quests.

Drawing Down the Moon, by Margot Adler, takes a more reportorial approach, offering a fascinating blend of mirror and window in its study of the phenomenon known broadly as the Neo-Pagan movement. Currently available only in hardcover, this massive tome explores many of the different threads patterning the tapestry of Goddess-worship in America today. This book is the ideal introduction for anyone wishing to obtain an objective, comprehensive overview of the movement. Fair and factual, brimming with anecdotal information, my only cavil with Adler's book is that while she characterizes feminism and Craft as two rivulets merging into a single stream, she concentrates on the male founder-figures of the Neo-Pagan and Craft revival movements — only one chapter really centers on feminist Craft. Adler does make clear, however, how the cross-pollination between feminism and Neo-Pagan philosophies and practices are parenting the Goddess-religions of tomorrow. A richly satisfying philosophical exploration of the history, present, and future potential of a quixotic yet compelling movement.

Merlin Stone (author of *When God was a Woman)* has produced another thoroughly researched and splendidly written book: *Ancient Mirrors of Womanhood: Our Goddess and Heroine Heritage.* This work comes in two volumes, and judging by the quality of the first volume, I can't wait for Volume Two. Borrowing from Merlin's own analogy, she has taken the shattered fragments of our proud legends and lore of the past and pieced them together with the glue of scholarship. Since many of the tales had been diluted with the scorn and scepticism of patriarchal attitudes, she has also replaced the spice and sting, the wit and reverence with which these stories must have originally been told. Merlin Stone has gathered Goddess lore from every culture — Africa, China, South America, Scandinavia, India, Japan, Sumer, Anatolia, Greece, the Celtic countries, the Oceanic cultures (Australia, Polynesia, New Zealand, Boreno), the Native North American — a staggering collection that dazzles with its rainbow spectrum of variety. Women are shown as lusty, gentle, blood-thirsty, nurturing, vengeful, compassionate, crafty, wise, courageous, psychic, brilliant, creative and, at times, omnipotent. They are not shown as weak, empty-headed or inconsequential, the distorting mirrors of the patriarchal fun-house. Merlin has truly presented such a variety of mirrors that women of every race, culture and temperament may find models to reflect their power and potential. It was exciting to see so many names I had never heard of — a major drawback of women's spirituality has been our emphasis on Celtic, European and Greek Goddess' — we have so little information about the legends created by women of color. Illustrations by Merlin's daughter, Cynthia Stone, show powerful women of a variety of racial and body types, many of them scowling magnificently. Like the seeds found in a Pharoh's tomb which sprouted after 2,000 years of burial, these tales of centuries past will take root and grow green in women's hearts today.

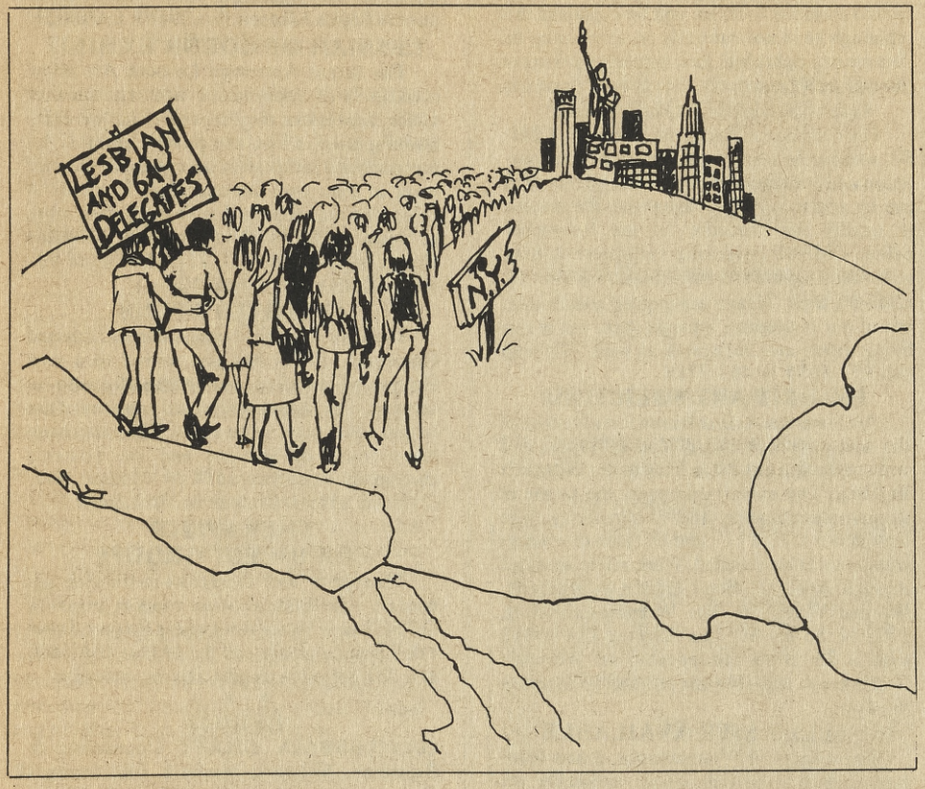
For guidance, for knowledge, for inspiration, these three books form a trinity of genius which will be the center of your spiritual library for years to come. ■

L.A. Calendar

Editorial Note: In this section we welcome announcements or news about groups and events in the Greater Los Angeles area. An "announcement" is an event for which there is no charge, or a nominal $1 or $2 fee. Classes, events, conferences, concerts, benefits, fundraisers, etc., which charge admission or registration are considered ads and should be directed to the Advertising Department (see Ad Rates, last page).

by-laws, the election of two lesbians as Vice Presidents, and the election of a co-sexual slate of Stonewall delegates to attend the California Democratic Council's Convention March 28-30.

Known particularly for its publication of "slate sheets" endorsing pro-gay and pro-feminist candidates, Stonewall was founded in 1975. It has always been open to women but decided to take the above steps this January to encourage lesbian participation in the organization. The by-laws now mandate that a minimum of two of the top four officers be women. These positions were filled in their February elections by Ivy Bottini and Jeanne Cordova, who will serve as Vice-Presidents.



SISTER FOLDS SOJOURNER CLOSES

Two more longtime feminist institutions of Los Angeles, *Sister* newspaper and Sojourner bookstore, have ceased operating. *Sister's* last issue appeared last October. No official press release about folding was published, but the paper, begun in 1970, has ceased publishing. Financial and "lack of energy" reasons were cited.

After five and a half years Maria Dominguez and Carol Irene, owners of the Long Beach feminist bookstore Sojourner, announced they must close March 15. Financial reasons, specifically "the recession and changes in the women's movement" mean the women can no longer meet expenses. The owners "thank all of the women who have consistently supported us" and invite everyone to their March 8 Fundraiser/Good-bye party where all merchandise and fixtures will be auctioned. Location: 538 Redondo Blvd. Call them at 498-5466 (days) 424-7608 (eves.) for directions. Time: 5 to 9 p.m.

STONEWALL OUTREACH TO LESBIANS

Stonewall Democratic Club, the largest gay Democratic Club in California, has begun an outreach to the lesbian community. The outreach includes gender parity changes in its

On Feb. 18 Stonewall also elected 13 lesbians and 13 gay men as delegates to the CDC Convention. The elected women are: Susan Gross, Joyce Gonzalez, Dottie Wine, Bobbi Bennett, Diane Parenello, Diane Abbitt, Myra Riddell, Colleen Walsh, Jeanne Cordova, Ivy Bottini, Rhonda Saunders, Jean O'Leary, and Pam Parker.

Women interested in joining Stonewall are invited to attend the March 17 general meeting at 1428 McCadden Place in Hollywood, 7:30 p.m. Call 463-3928 for further information, or write Stonewall Democractic Club, P.O. Box 39495, Los Angeles 90039.

DESTINATION NEW YORK

A greater Los Angeles area push to elect lesbian and gay delegates to the August Democratic Convention in New York has been launched by Stonewall Democratic Club. At a March 3 meeting other city organizations were invited to participate and support this "Destination New York" drive which culminates May 4 with caucus voting in local Congressional Districts. If you are interested in organizing your neighborhood or organization to get out the vote call Stonewall (463-3928), or Pam Parker (659-2718), or Jeanne Cordova (939-1200).

continued on page 28

ms tours

For women who are going places...

COMPLETE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

L.A.: (213) 655-0442
Valley: (213) 987-3919
South Bay: (213) 539-5504

Westside Women's Clinic

COMPLETE GYNECOLOGICAL SERVICES

(213) 450-2191

1711 Ocean Park Boulevard
Santa Monica, CA 90405

The Next
WHITMAN-BROOKS
"Developing a Positive Gay Identity" Conference
Saturday and Sunday
March 22 and 23, 1980
at UCLA
* * * 68 WORKSHOPS * * *
TO CHOOSE FROM
Keynote Speakers
Saturday
Terri DeCrescenzo, M.S.W.
Sunday
Martin Rocklin, Ph.D.
Registration Sat. & Sun. at Noon
Ackerman Student Union
2nd Floor

Enrollment Fee:	One Day	Both Days
Members:	$12	$20
Non-Members:	$20	$35

Enrollment Includes
Complimentary Buffet
Sat. 5:30 to 9 p.m.
At The Apache
For Information and
Pre-Registration Call
657-8282

"Our program is a growing experience for staff and participants together, and implemented in an atmosphere of sisterhood, supportiveness, sharing. This program is the unique energy of women working with women for women."

ALCOHOLISM CENTER FOR WOMEN

1147 south alvarado·
los angeles, ca.
90006
(213) 381-7805

a safe environment. . .to grow in self esteem and confidence no discrimination as to race, religion, sexual preference. recovery home, non-residential services, sliding fee scale, traditional-innovative treatment techniques.

HERSELF HEALTH CLINIC
Health Care by and for Women

HEALTH CARE FOR PEOPLE NOT FOR PROFIT

MEDICAL CLINICS
Tuesday
Evenings

CHIROPRACTIC CLINICS
Thursday
Evenings

COUNSELING

972-9664

153 Glendale Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
by appointment only please

HAIRSTYLING
FULL SERVICE SALON FOR MEN & WOMEN

Tracie Ray

1022 North Fairfax Ave.
West Hollywood
(213) 656-7740

HOURS 10AM-6PM
AND BY APPOINTMENT

Manicures
Available Only$5.00

Ask For Judy Or Tracie

HAIRCUT & STYLE
REG. $17.00 NOW $10.00
WITH THIS COUPON

CRANSTON AT GAY LUNCHEON

Senator Alan Cranston told a mostly gay audience at a January luncheon of the Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles (MECLA) that California gays were participating effectively in the political process. "You (gays) are now a very important factor in the life of our state and nation" he told the political fund-raising organization. Cranston, who is running for re-election, said he will introduce a Senate bill to repeal the nation's anti-gay immigration laws, he spoke at length about the Iran/Afghanistan situation saying we must make clear our resolve without resorting to military intervention. In response to questions Cranston said he was making gay appointments and would continue to do so, and he explained that although he is not currently co-sponsoring the Senate gay rights bill, he is actively working on his colleagues to support other pro-gay measures.

GRASS SEEKS OUR HELP

The California Marijuana Initiative, CMI-80, seeks to legalize the possession, transportation and cultivation of marijuana for personal use by adults. 600,000 signatures are needed to qualify this measure for the November ballot. CMI-80 is seeking volunteers to help with voter registration and signature gathering. CMI-80 says, "Gays are getting government out of our bedrooms; let's get them out of our living rooms and backyards as well." To help call 652-8654 or 461-2788.

EXHIBIT ART SOLICITED

Art historian Arlene Raven is co-founder of the new project Woman*Woman*Works and will curate that exhibit in May at the Woman's Building. The exhibit addresses the theme of woman-identification and/or sensibility. The format is 8 1/2" x 11" and all types of work by women are being solicited. Work will be accepted through April 15. Send entries to Woman*Woman*Works, % The Woman's Building, 1727 N. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA 90012 with a $5 entry fee payable to Women's Community, Inc. (No one refused for inability to pay.)

VALLEY SITE AVAILABLE

The owners of Womanbooks, a new feminist bookstore in Van Nuys, announce the opening of The Hobby, a workshop space available for rent to women's groups. The Hobby is open daily, located at 13720 Burbank Blvd., and will feature many classes and activities. For more info call 785-4276.

GCSC MAY ADD "LESBIAN"

The Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Gay Community Services Center is currently discussing changing GCSC's name to include the word "lesbian." Names under consideration are "The Gay/Lesbian Service Center" and "The Gay/Lesbian Community Center."

EASTSIDE DWELLERS

A new organization of lesbian and gay residents and business persons in the Los Feliz/Silver Lake/Echo Park area is forming. Goals of the new group include gender and 3rd world parity, and the improvements of the quality of life in the area through community and political involvement. Interested parties call 666-4683 or 662-0268.

SHELTER PROJECT NEEDS STAFFERS

Sojourn Shelter for Battered Women is looking for evening volunteers to staff phone hotlines from their homes. They also need women to work at the shelter in advocacy, child care, counseling, collective meal preparation, etc. To attend an orientation meeting for volunteers call the Ocean Park Community Center at 399-9228.

PRO-CHOICE COALITION FORMING

The National Right-To-Life Committee is holding its annual convention June 26-29 in Anaheim, California at the Anaheim Convention Center. Los Angeles feminists plan to be there to welcome them. . .by staging a June 28 counter-demonstration. Last year 2000 pro-choice demonstrators turned out in Cincinnati for the Right-To-Life Convention there. Area feminists invite all women to help them duplicate that effort by attending a Feb. 29 coalition meeting. Call 933-0932 or 275-9612 or 254-2863 for location and further dates. To endorse the June 28 protest or make a contribution to this organizing effort write: Reproductive Rights Alliance, Box 29483, LA 90029.

LESBIAN OF COLOR EXHIBIT

The Great American Lesbian Art Show (GALAS) in cooperation with Lesbians of Color, announces they are reserving two exhibition spaces (in East and South Central L.A.) for black and latina lesbians to exhibit their art work in their own communities. Lesbians of color who are interested in showing their work in these locations should contact Mikhalia Cortez at 464-7400 ext. 231. (For more info on GALAS see National News.)

ARCHIVES OPENS

The Gay Archives Natalie Barney/Edward Carpenter Library has just moved to a new Hollywood storefront and invites all to use its services. The library is reported to be one of the largest collections in the world. They also have many works on lesbians and the women's movement. Location: 1654 N. Hudson Ave. (213) 463-5450. Curator is Jim Kepner.

THERAPISTS FOR INCEST GROUPS

Therapists and therapists-in-training are needed to facilitate survivor support groups of GCSC's new Incest Awareness Project. Interested women please call the IAP at 464-7400 ext. 231 for more details and an interview.

* * *

EVENTS

GAY/LESBIAN DRAFT Counseling & Resistance Network, March 1. "Becoming a Conscientious Objector" and March 21 "Legal Issues" discussions. For locations and details call Nancy Taylor at 464-7400.

CRIS WILLIAMSON IN CONCERT, April 5th. See ad this issue.

ALIX DOBKIN RETURNS! to Los Angeles in concert on March 21. See ad this issue.

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT, will be the theme of a Saturday, April 19 march in Los Angeles which will protest all forms of violence against women. Event is co-sponsored by Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women. For more information call 396-5590 or 793-5171.

WOMANSPACE (235 Hill St. Santa Monica)
EVENTS:

Mondays: Alternative to A.A. (7:30 pm)
Drop-In Writer's Workshop (7:30 pm)
Volleyball (at Culver West Park, 4162 Wade Ave., Culver City) 7-10 pm

Wednesdays: Women's Support Group (7:30 pm)

Thursdays: Radical Feminist Drop-In Group (7:00 pm)
Volleyball (see Tuesday).

Fridays: Jewish Feminist Drop-In Group (1st Friday of each month). Call 473-9090 for more information.

Saturdays: Open Staff Meeting (March 1 and 15) 11:00 am.

Sundays: Poetry Reading (March 2 & 16) 7:30 pm.

Classified Ads

RATES: $5 per inch, $10 minimum for Business, Events & Professional Services. $5 minimum for Personal ads. 1 inch = 7 lines, 44 spaces per line.
Personal: individual solicitations, pen pals, reuqests, etc.
Business: where product or service is sold or job is offered.
Events: workshops, speakers, seminars, conferences, festivals, etc., which charge registration or admission.
Professional Services: private practice or business.

PERSONAL

Mature lesbian wanted to share lovely Manhattan Beach home (near the beach) with two others. $250 mo. + 1/3 util. Write: Betty Shoemaker, 500 Marine Ave., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

I want to connect with other lesbians who are serious about collectives as the feminist economic form. I am interested in building a collective business which provides a basic resource to women. Jeanette Silveira, 149 No. Gramercy Pl., LA 90004.

Your first period? Participate in menstruation research. Write "M", 55 Sutter, San Francisco, CA 94104.

Hikers — Looking for womyn interested in hiking all or part of the Appalachian Trail. Starting in Georgia mid-April, hope to reach Maine by Sept. For further information contact Joan Warren, PO Box 5902, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

Gay woman seeks work. I will do light housework and/or child care in the Los Angeles or Hollywood area. Can work in other areas if you give me a ride. Part-time. I am sincere, honest and reliable. Call Thora 680-3339.

Women writers are forming a group to meet weekly to discuss our film scripts, tele-plays, short stories, etc. Get feedback and support. Call Cathy at (213) 838-3508.

BUSINESS

WOMEN ON WHEELS PRODUCTIONS (of Los Angeles) needs work exchange people to assist on their up-coming (April 5th) Cris Williamson concert. Areas of work include publicity, postering, production crews, and house crews. If interested call WOW Productions at (213) 665-7535 for appointment.

LESBIAN FEMINIST S & M support group has published a 45 page booklet including articles on theory and politics, personal experience, reading list. $3.00. Plain wrapper. Samois #3, PO Box 2364, Berkeley, CA 94202. Free hanky. Color code card for lesbians included.

WRITE ON, WOMAN! writer's guide can help all women who write to conveniently find the women's alternate press periodicals best suited for their work and can help women looking for places to advertise their products and services. Gives editorial policies, readership, circulation, size, etc., for over 80 periodicals. $4.05 postpaid payable to Lynne D. Shapiro, 345 W. 87th St., NY, NY 10024.

THEMIS The Voice of the Feminist Witch. Goddess knowledge for women. $5 yr. sub. Free sample copy. P.O. Box 42121, Los Angeles, CA 90042. Published by Susan B. Anthony Coven No. 1.

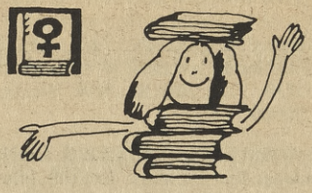
DID YOU MISS SOME HERSTORY? Now you can have five years of *The Lesbian Tide* (18 issues from 1975 thru 1979) for $11. Four year set ('75-'78) for $8. A very special gift for friend or lover. Order now from Tide

SISTERHOOD BOOKSTORE

Feminist Books

●

Resource Center

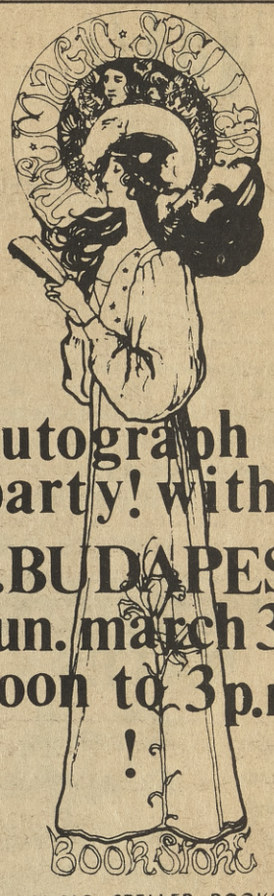


1351 Westwood Boulevard
Los Angeles, Calif. 90024
(213) 477-7300

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

— the bookstore with a difference...

PAGE ONE
42 NORTH LAKE AVE.
PASADENA, CA 91101
MON. - SAT. 11 - 5:30
(213) 792-9011



autograph party! with Z.BUDAPEST sun. march 30 noon to 3 p.m. !

THE MAGIC SPELLER BOOKSTORE
CANNERY VILLAGE
506 31ST STREET
NEWPORT BEACH
CALIFORNIA 92663
673 - 8400

Jeanette Foster, Barbara Grier, Monique Wittig & Sande Zeig, Pat Parker, Audrey Lorde, Judy Grahn, Rene Vivien, Adrienne Rich, May Sarton, Marie-Claire Blais, Jane Bowles, Djuna Barnes, Sally Gearhart, Elizabeth Bowen, Jane Rule, gingerlox, Marguerite Young, Elizabeth Lynn, Janet Flanner, Mary Renault, Valerie Taylor, Gertrude Stein, Natalie Barney, Karla Jay, George Sand, Ann Shockley, Kate Stimson, Paula Christian, Marge Piercy, Joanne Russ, Violette Leduc, Elizabeth Mavor, Z. Budapest

A Different Light

GAY LITERATURE/PERIODICALS/AESTHETERA

★ A new store specializing in gay male and lesbian literature and periodicals, buttons, posters, and cards.

★ 4014 Santa Monica Blvd. (At Sunset), Hollywood, CA 90029 Phone 668-0629

★ Tuesday through Saturday 11-7, Fridays 'till 9, Sundays 11-5

Center for
Feminist Therapy

Individual and Group Counseling

Body Work

Healing Massage

Workshops

Consultants

We work with women, men & families of all life styles. Therapists who identify as lesbian, bisexual & heterosexual are on our staff.

(213) 391-6321

ADVERTISING RATES

	Wide	Tall	Amt.
Back cover	7"	10"	$110
Inside front	7"	10"	100
Inside back	7"	10"	100
Full page	7"	10"	90
2/3 page	4 1/2"	10"	75
Half page	4 1/2"	7 3/8"	60
Third page	4 1/2"	4 7/8"	45
—or—	2 1/8"	10"	45
Quarter page	2 1/8"	7 3/8"	35
Sixth page	2 1/8"	4 7/8"	20
— or —	4 1/2"	2 3/8"	20
Twelfth page	2 1/8"	2 3/8"	10

Discounts (on 4" or larger):
6 insertions (one year)..... 20% discount
3 insertions (six months).... 10% discount
Advance payment of 50% required.

DEADLINES

Send camera ready copy and check made payable to Tide Publications by the 15th of the month preceding publication:

Jan/Feb issue..... Dec 15
March/Apr issue..... Feb 15
May/June issue..... Apr 15
July/Aug issue..... June 15
Sept/Oct..... Aug 15
Nov/Dec issue..... Oct 15

Early ad confirmation will help insure better placement.

CUSTOM LAYOUT

We can layout your ad for you for a nominal fee. Call (213) 839-7254 or send copy and instructions.

Tide Publications
1314 South Tremaine Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90019

Publications, 1314 S. Tremaine Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90019.

WOOD SINGS her version of the blues - stompers, political love songs and humorous dyke ballads, in a special concert appearance - Saturday, May 17, 8 p.m., Colorado Women's College, Denver. A Paradox Production. (303) 399-0626

HUNDREDS OF LESBIANS have met each other through *The Wishing Well* magazine & supportive services. You can write/meet women too with confidentiality. Membership subscription $3 for intro. issue ppd. For information and brochure write: WW, PO Box 664, Novato, CA 94947.

OFF OUR BACKS: news coverage & political analysis on issues that effect women's lives — international, health, lesbian/gay, work, prison, etc. Contributing sub, $12 yr. Sub. $6, sample 60¢. OOB, 1724 20th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20009.

THE WOMEN'S WRITER'S CENTER: An Independent Feminist Institute offering a yearlong program of writing workshops and women's literature. Now accepting applications for its sixth year to begin September, 1980. Write and work in an environment for women, by women. Faculty for 1980-1981: Olga Broumas, Rita Mae Brown, Rachel deVries, Judy Grahn, Audre Lorde, Marge Piercy, Rita Speicher. Information: Women's Writer's Center, Williams Hall, Cazenovia, New York, 13035. (315) 655-3466.

THE NEW ORLEANS WIMMIN'S GRAPHICS COLLECTIVE (formerly PAS Studio) presents Wimmin's Shirt Tales. Amelia Earhart, Rosa Parks, Amazon Quarterly, Dykes on Bikes, & Women Against Violence Against Women are only a few of the quality hand silk-screened t-shirts we offer. Send 15¢ in coins or stamps to receive our complete catalogue. Wholesale & custom printing rates available. NOWGC Dept. LT, 1725 Carondelet St., New Orleans, LA 70130.

LAYOUT/PASTE UP ARTISTS: wanted to work with *The Lesbian Tide* on Production Day one Sunday every two months. We offer good company, hot lunch and $10 for the day. We need your skills! Call 939-1200.

DYKE WITCHES HARK! Z Budapest's new book, *The Holy Book of Women's Mysteries (Part I)*, is out! This book is a must for women interested in Lesbian Spirituality. $6+75¢ postage to: Susan B. Anthony Coven #1, P.O. Box 42121. L.A., CA 90042.

CHANGING YOUR LIFE? Need a lover? Looking for your destiny? Consult a sister who has helped hundreds in the past 9 years. Z Budapest can help ESP, write a handwritten letter with your questions, and send $20 to P.O. Box 42121, Los Angeles, CA and you will receive a love taped session about your life. Or make an appointment in person. (213) 224-8004.

JOB: *The Lesbian Tide* is looking for another editor. Must have some writing and editing experience. Time required: weekly Thursday evening meetings. Stipend $60 per issue. Send cover letter, clips, and resume to Tide Publications, 1314 S. Tremaine Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90019. Or call for an appointment (213) 939-1200.

ANTI-PSYCHIATRY BIBLIOGRAPHY: Over 90 mini-reviews from a feminist/radical/mental patients liberation perspective. $1.50 "The Politics of Phenothiazines", booklet about harmful effects of psychiatric drugs and economics of drug industry, focusing on Smith-Kline, the makers of Thorazine & Stelazine. ANTI-DRUG T-SHIRT; reads "Stop Psychiatric Drug Pushing, Boycott SmithKline" and shows fist breaking needle. Red on black. M, L, or extra-L. $5. All from: Alliance for the Liberation of Mental Patients, 1427 Walnut, Phila. PA 19102.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Valerie Kirkgaard, B.A., M.T. (therapy): lesbian indiv. & couple counseling using integrated therapy techniques including I-ching, regression, gestalt & bodywork. (213) 258-5543.

Marjorie Rushforth (attorney): specializing in feminist and lesbian issues, civil and criminal. Penthouse Law Suite 505, City Parkway West, Orange, CA 92668. (714) 937-0610 wk. or (714) 540-2186 hm.

Teresa De Crescenzo, M.S.W. (therapy): counseling for lesbians, children & adolescents. Sliding scale fee. 6399 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1007, Los Angeles, CA 90048. (213) 653-3496.

Betty Berzon, Ph.D. (therapy): lesbian couples, individuals & groups. 6399 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1007, Los Angeles, CA 90048. (213) 653-2912. By appointment.

Barbara Price (attorney): family law, child custody/visitation, alternative living agreements, small business law for women, entertainment law including copyright, publishing, contracts, and performance agreements. 1714 Stockton St., San Francisco, CA 94133. (415) 433-6790.

Linda Barone, MFCC (therapy): individual relationships & groups, feminist therapy for lesbians. 12581 Venice Blvd., #206, L.A., CA 90066. (213) 391-6321.

Jan Stone (attorney): estate planning, probate & business. 6210 Wilshire Blvd. #303, Los Angeles, CA 90048. (213) 934-0512.

Tracy Moore (tax counselor): income tax preparation & counselling on all tax matters for individuals, small businesses, partnerships. Appointments in your home. Days, evenings, weekends. For more information or appointment call (213) 435-7195. Serving L.A. and Orange Counties.

Judith Goodman, MA, MFCC (psychotherapist): provides indiv. & couples with a safe place to grow & explore using verbal and/or Reichian therapy. (213) 477-5202.

Dorothy Morris Compton (attorney): divorce, child custody, sex discrimination, personal injury, business. Union Tower Bldg., Suite 840, 21515 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503 (213) 316-0160.

Abbitt & Bennett (attorneys at law) Diane Abbitt: business formation, partnerships, corporations, contracts, real prop., bankruptcy. Bobbi Bennett: family law, child custody, alternative lifestyle agreements, wills, probate, immigration, personal injury. 9200 Sunset Blvd., L.A. 90069 (213) 273-2380.

To Women's Health / Mental Health Programs—

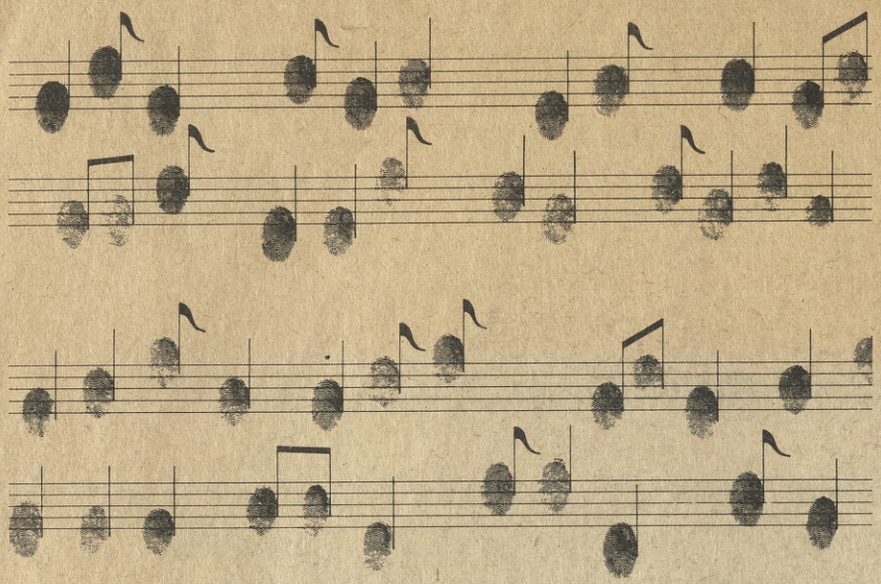
I am a lesbian feminist therapist who has worked for the past 10 years in a state-operated community mental health center. I no longer choose to put my energies into work which serves to support an un-changing mental health system that oppresses its clients and employees.

I am skilled / talented in innovative feminist therapy (esp. with women who have chosen alcohol as an escape from their oppressed lives), program evaluation and planning, and grant writing. If what I have to offer matches your program's needs, please contact me...

Your Sister,

Karla McFarland

1541 Fournier Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63126

MARGIE ADAM NAKED KEYS

Margie is back, and this time she's at the piano alone, playing her own music on this solo instrumental album. You can hear her classical training, feel her jazz influences, hum her pop melodies.

LP Record $6.95/Tape Cassette $6.95
Send check or money order payable to: Pleiades Records
Department LT
P.O. Box 7217, Berkeley, Ca 94707
Distributed locally in many areas.

Also available: "Margie Adam. Songwriter." LP Record / Tape Cassette $6.95. Songbook $5.50.

graphic details

Lesbian Erotica & Humor

by Bev Balliett and Patti Patton

fantasies
poetry
photographs

$4.50 postpaid

Starr Publications
P.O. Box 5586
Phoenix, AZ 85010

IN CONCERT

WOMEN ON WHEELS PRODUCTIONS

Cris Williamson

with Jackie Robbins
June Millington
Cam Davis

April 5th • 8:00 p.m.

Embassy Auditorium
Los Angeles

Tickets: $7.50 general admission
MUTUAL TICKET AGENCIES
Call 627-1480 for nearest agency

A Pair of Toucans

Ethnic Folk Art

AFFORDABLE HANDCRAFTS
FROM
AROUND THE WORLD

Bonnie Nemeth
&
Gahan Kelley

1438 WESTWOOD BLVD.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90024
(213) 474-4344